SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 21

THE DUFFY TRIAL, DAY 2
COVERAGE, P. 10

CRICKET PROTEIN POWDER PACKS A PUNCH
P.16

Vancouver metro

High 16°C/Low 7°C Sunny

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2015

6 cup riot cases yet to be settled

COURT

Majority of the 300 people charged have pleaded guilty

As the Vancouver Canucks enter a new round of playoffs, there are still a handful of cases before the courts leftover from Vancouver's Stanley Cup riot almost four years ago.

There were 887 charges laid against 300 people accused of taking part in the riot on June 15, 2011, after the Canucks lost the Stanley Cup to the Boston Bruins.

Of those, 280 people pleaded guilty, one plans to plead guilty, seven were found guilty after trial, four files were stayed by the Crown, one person was acquitted and six trials are still outstanding, Crown counsel Gordon Comer said Wednesday.

One trial is set to resume Thursday in Vancouver provincial court, he said.

Considerably more charges were laid after the 2011 riot than the 1994 Stanley Cup riot in Vancouver because of the thousands of images captured by citizens' cellphones and posted on social media.

During the 2011 riot, bystanders photographed rioters smashing windows, looting stores and burning cars, causing more than $4 million in damage.

A total of 271 people have been sentenced for taking part in the riot and there have been several appeals that have been heard.

NEAL HALL/FOR METRO

B.C.'s own sumo sensation

Brodi Henderson, 20, competes at the U.S. Sumo Open last September. The 360-pound, six-foot-seven athlete from Victoria is making waves as the only North American in the Japanese Professional Sumo Association. **Story on page 6.** DUSTIN SNIPES/USA SUMO

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

He's a surrogate 'mom' for orphaned kangaroos. Page 12

Dr. Reka Gustafson said that the latest measles case was aboard a flight from China that arrived in Vancouver at 12:15 p.m. on April 4. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

New measles case diagnosed

HEALTH

Passengers of an April 4 flight advised to get vaccinated

For the second time in a month, health officials have issued a warning about a case of measles on a flight from China.

Dr. Reka Gustafson, a Vancouver Coastal Health medical officer, said Wednesday that the latest measles case was aboard a flight from China that arrived in Vancouver at 12:15 p.m. on April 4. She advised anyone on the flight to get vaccinated.

Passengers on the flight should watch for these symptoms until April 25: fever, cough, runny nose, pink eye and a red rash.

Any passenger who develops symptoms should contact a doctor because measles is highly infectious, Gustafson said.

The incubation period is seven to 20 days after exposure to measles, she said, but the average is two weeks, and a person with measles can infect an average of 15 to 18 others.

Previously, another case of measles was confirmed on a flight to China from Vancouver on March 21.

> **It's a bit unusual that we have two cases on flights very close together.**
> Dr. Reka Gustafson

Gustafson said that the person most recently diagnosed was on both flights.

She could not say whether the latest case of measles involved an airline employee.

"It's a bit unusual that we have two cases on flights very close together," Gustafson said.

A total of nine people have contracted measles in the Lower Mainland since that first case was identified from the March 21 flight, she said.

All were either on the March 21 flight or had contact with someone aboard that flight.

Gustafson said about 300 passengers on the first flight were exposed to measles and she believes there were roughly the same number on Saturday's China Airlines/Air Canada flight CA991/AC6601.

People on the latest flight who don't have their immunizations up to date should get a measles vaccination as soon as possible, she added.

"The purpose of that is so we don't have ongoing transmission," Gustafson said.

The recent measles outbreak is a reminder that travellers should make sure they are up to date with their measles and other vaccinations, she said.

There have also been measles outbreaks in the U.S. and other parts of Canada, Gustafson noted.

NEAL HALL/FOR METRO

SOCIAL HOUSING

Yaletown residents take city to court

A group of Yaletown residents has launched legal action against the City of Vancouver over its new definition of social housing.

The Community Association of New Yaletown filed a petition in B.C. Supreme Court last week alleging the new definition is "unreasonable" and illegal under the Vancouver Charter.

The petition is closely tied to the group's first lawsuit against the city regarding its deal with Brenhill Developments for social housing at 1099 Richards in exchange for extra density at 508 Helmcken. In that case, the judge sided with the residents and quashed the housing definition bylaw.

But the city appealed the decision and, even though the appeal won't be heard until next week, reinstated the social housing definition after holding another public hearing on the issue.

The city is "currently undertaking a thorough review of the challenge," according to an emailed statement.

The new definition of social housing is: Rental housing owned by the government or a non-profit where at least 30 per cent of the units go to households with incomes below housing income limits (that's $36,500 for a bachelor apartment in Vancouver).

In the Downtown Eastside, the definition stipulates one third of the units rent at the shelter rate of $375 per month.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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Soul SX Luxury shown‡

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Rondo EX Luxury shown‡
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Sorento SX AT AWD 7-Seat shown‡
HWY / CITY 100KM^: 8.7L/11.8L

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MURDER CHARGE

Officer claims man aimed gun at police

A British Columbia police officer facing both a civil lawsuit and a murder charge says he fired his rifle after a "distraught and violent man" pointed a handgun at police during a tense standoff.

In a response to the lawsuit filed by the dead man's daughter, Const. Jordan MacWilliams said he had a "reasonable fear" the man would cause death or grievous bodily harm to himself or others

Mehrdad Bayrami, 48, was fatally shot outside the Starlight Casino in New Westminster in November 2012, after police allegedly rescued a female hostage and a five-hour standoff ensued.

B.C.'s police watchdog, the Independent Investigations Office, led a probe into the shooting. Last fall, the Crown approved a second-degree murder charge against MacWilliams — a rarity for a B.C. officer.

Nousha Bayrami claims in her lawsuit against the constable and his employer, the Corporation of Delta, that her father was walking backwards away from police when MacWilliams suddenly shot him without warning or justification.

She accuses the officer of "gross negligence or malicious or wilful misconduct." Bayrami claims she has suffered financial losses as a result of her father's "wrongful death," and has been deprived of his "love, care, guidance and support."

None of the allegations have been proven in court. The officer's criminal trial is due to begin in October.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BACKGROUND

Police were called to the casino on Nov. 8, 2012, after an employee saw live security footage of the staff parking lot, where a man was threatening a woman with a handgun. The man, later identified as Bayrami, fired the gun into the woman's vehicle and dragged her about 300 metres to an area near an intersection, the response alleges.

IN BRIEF

Transit plebiscite ballots start trickling in

Elections B.C. has received ballots from eight per cent of registered voters in the Metro Vancouver transit plebiscite so far, according to data released Wednesday.

That's a jump from last week when only 4.1 per cent of ballots had been mailed to answer "Yes" or "No" to a 0.5 per cent regional sales tax to help pay for $7.5 billion in transit investments.

The interim results, however, only include ballots from Vancouver, Surrey, Richmond, Burnaby and Coquitlam. Voter turnout is highest so far in Vancouver at 17.8 per cent and Richmond at 12.2 per cent.

Elections B.C. intends to release voter turnout information every week until the mail-in period ends.

If eligible voters have not yet received voting packages, they can request one at elections.bc.ca until May 15. Ballots must be received by May 29 at 8 p.m.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

These stamps were designed by Andrew Perro with illustrations by Julius Csotonyi and photography by Judy Arndt. Left: Tylosaurus Pembinensis; right: Ornithomimus Edmontonicus; bottom: Chasmosaurus Belli. COURTESY OF CANADA POST

These dinosaurs fit in your mailbox

JULIUS CSOTONYI

Canada Post launches prehistoric stamp series

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Vancouver-based paleo artist Julius Csotonyi's fascination with dinosaurs is about to spread across Canada.

Canada Post unveiled on Thursday six million stamps featuring Csotonyi's illustrations of five dinosaurs and prehistoric creatures that used to roam across the country.

It's an honour for the renowned artist, who has been inspired by fossils and the distant past ever since a childhood visit to the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Alberta's badlands — a prestigious museum where his work now appears.

"I was pretty excited about an opportunity like this … it's kind of neat to spread information about Canadian dinosaurs," said Csotonyi. "The stranger something is, the neater it is."

As an artist and a scientist — he has a master's degree in ecology and a PhD in microbiology — Csotonyi ensured the poses and colours in his illustrations were scientifically accurate and plausible.

He hopes the drawings encourage people to learn more about dinosaurs.

"Any kind of means or media in which we can interest people about science and the funky discoveries about dinosaurs is to me pretty exciting," he said.

The stamp series called "Dinos of Canada" is a way to tell this (very) old Canadian story, according to Canada Post CEO Deepak Chopra.

"Canadians young and old marvel at these wonders of nature and will be intrigued to discover in this stamp issue fascinating clues to the lives these dinosaurs lived," Chopra said in a statement.

The stamps were designed by Andrew Perro and also feature photography by Judy Arndt.

The prehistoric animals featured on the stamps are Euoplocephalus Tutus (an armoured ankylosaur), Chasmosaurus Belli (a horned dinosaur), Tyrannosaurus Rex, Ornithomimus Edmontonicus (feathered ostrich-like dinosaur) and Tylosaurus Pembinensis (not a dinosaur, but rather a marine reptile related to Komodo dragons).

"Any means or media in which we can interest people about the funky discoveries of dinosaurs is pretty exciting."
Paleo artist Julius Csotonyi

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Canadian sumo superstar making waves in Japan

SPORTS

Victoria man using size and strength to his advantage

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Brodi Henderson, 20, right, competes at the 2013 U.S. Sumo Open in California. At six-foot-seven and 360 pounds, Henderson has always been the biggest guy on the team. DUSTIN SNIPES/USA SUMO

Brodi Henderson CONTRIBUTED

At six-foot-seven and 360 pounds, Brodi Henderson has always been the biggest guy on the team.

Now, the 20-year-old from Victoria is using his size and strength to his advantage as the only North American to be accepted into the Japan Sumo Association.

"He's really strong," said father Lee Henderson. "He benches over 500 pounds."

Henderson secured his spot in the pro ranks last September when he won the open-weight class at the U.S. Sumo Open in California. He moved to Tokyo in February when he was accepted onto one of the country's 48 sumo teams — an impressive feat in itself, said Lee.

"Each team is only allowed to have one foreigner," he said. "There are only about eight foreigners in all of Japanese pro sumo."

Henderson has only been in Japan for two months, but already his presence is making waves. With his towering stature, it's hard for him to go unnoticed.

"When we showed up at the airport, there was a news crew there waiting for us," he said. "He was on the front page of a couple of newspapers before we got there."

Henderson first entered sumo at the age of 15.

A keen hockey and football player, Lee said his son's size didn't always work in his favour.

At 13, Henderson was already six-foot-five, weighed 325 pounds and could bench-press over 300 pounds. Coaches were concerned that he could unintentionally injure his teammates.

Henderson tried his hand at judo, but even in that sport, Lee said it was difficult to find opponents in his weight category. At one competition, all of the other competitors dropped out of the category after Henderson signed up, he said.

"Brodi was really quite discouraged and disappointed," said Lee. "So that's when he started looking for something that he could do where he could really excel."

Soon after discovering sumo, Henderson travelled to California to compete in the U.S. Sumo Open. After only a day of training, he went on to win almost every match, said Lee.

"It was pretty jaw dropping," he said. "He's a big, powerful man, but still, for a guy who has virtually no formal training, everyone was really impressed with his overall strength."

Although he has a "long way to go," Andrew Freund, director of USA Sumo, said Henderson had an impressive performance at last year's U.S. Sumo Open.

"Last year, he pulled out some pretty incredible upsets," said Freund. "There's a spark of potential."

Henderson is now staying in a "heya," the Japanese word for stable or training quarters, where a group of sumo wrestlers live and train together full-time.

He has no access to phone or Internet and is only permitted to write a letter to his family once a month.

"It's almost like a monastery in a way that they're all brothers," Lee said. "They live together, they eat together and they train together."

Henderson's daily training sessions start at 5:30 a.m. and include five-hour workouts that focus on both strength and flexibility. Staying limber is incredibly important for sumo wrestling, Lee said, with even the heaviest wrestlers being able to do the splits.

It's a gruelling schedule, but Lee said his son thought long and hard about the decision to move to Japan, even turning down football scholarships to pursue his dream.

"It's awfully tough when you're so isolated like that," he said. "But it's a great opportunity for him.

"I'm extremely proud of him."

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Classes cancelled as Capilano profs strike

EDUCATION

Final exams expected to proceed as scheduled

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

Classes are cancelled at all three Capilano University campuses, as instructors began full-scale strike action Wednesday.

Members of the Capilano Faculty Association, the union that represents instructors at the university, formed a picket line at the North Vancouver campus on Wednesday.

The union announced that instructors will be withdrawing all services until further notice, according to a news release on the university's website.

Richard Gale, VP Academic for Capilano, said the university is disappointed with the union's decision to take strike action at a particularly stressful time for students.

"The university is exploring a range of options to ease the pressure on students, especially regarding grades," he said in a statement. "We are still hopeful that we can reach a fair settlement with the CFA at the bargaining table."

The university's North Vancouver campus will remain open during the strike, with limited services available, while the Sunshine Coast and Squamish campuses will be closed.

Final exams are expected to proceed as scheduled, with any changes posted on the university's website, according to the release.

The university and the Capilano Faculty Association have been engaged in collective bargaining since the beginning of February.

A request for comment from the Capilano Faculty Association was not returned Wednesday.

From left to right, Student Rose Stiffarm, and faculty Ki Wight and Debra Rurak picket at Capilano University in North Vancouver on Wednesday. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

VANCOUVER EAST NOMINATION

Federal Liberals still silent on probe

The Liberal Party of Canada is remaining silent about its investigation into the nomination race for Vancouver East after news reports emerged that some people were signed up for party membership without their consent.

The allegations prompted the party to postpone the nomination meeting, originally set for February, between charity founder Joanne Griffiths and lawyer Edward Wong.

Almost two months later, the nomination meeting has not yet been rescheduled as the party continues to investigate the alleged irregularities, Liberal spokesman Olivier Duchesneau said Wednesday.

The Liberals have yet to nominate candidates for about 30 per cent of ridings, he added.

Vancouver East is seen as a riding to watch as longtime NDP MP Libby Davies is stepping down from her seat in the NDP stronghold. MLA Jenny Kwan won the nod to run as the federal NDP candidate.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

THEFT

Employee who stole from RCMP exhibit locker sentenced to jail

A civilian RCMP employee who stole $116,000 over four years from a police exhibit locker was sentenced this week to 18 months in jail.

April Smith also received two years of probation after completing her jail time and was ordered to repay the $166,000 she stole from exhibits of cash seized by the Mission RCMP

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Lance Bernard was told that Smith, now 46, had a serious gambling problem that led to her taking the cash, which was eventually discovered during an audit two years ago.

She was convicted of theft over $5,000 and breach of trust.

NEAL HALL/METRO

IT'S TIME TO PADDLE AT THE DRAGON ZONE PADDLING CLUB

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Rossellini explores animal attraction

BACKSTAGE PASS

Take unique trip with actress inside sex lives of creatures

Graeme McRanor
For Metro | Vancouver

If you've ever wondered what it would be like to see Isabella Rossellini live on stage reenacting the sex lives of land and sea creatures, well, friend, you've just hit the curiosity jackpot: Green Porno, Live on Stage enters — see what I did there? — the Vancouver Playhouse on April 25.

Presented by the Italian Cultural Centre and PuSh International Performing Arts Festival, the provocative and fun Green Porno features Rossellini discussing and acting out the reproductive habits of marine animals and insects.

Her performance has been described as both scientifically accurate and entertaining.

Isabella Rossellini stars in Green Porno, Saturday, April 25, at the Vancouver Playhouse. CONTRIBUTED

"The secret to Green Porno is that it allows us to laugh but also communicate true scientific information," says Rossellini.

"Because of what I learned in doing the research I felt strongly that there needed to be an added environmental element to really inform people how delicate the futures of these creatures are."

Written by Isabella Rossellini and Jean-Claude Carnière, with artistic guidance from Muriel Mayette.

Tickets, $55 to $75, are on sale via TicketsTonight.ca. More information is at ItalianCulturalCentre.ca or PuShFestival.ca.

Still moving

Check out the series Painting with Film: The Cinema of Stillness starting tomorrow (April 10) at The Cinematheque.

It's a new series that "explores the dream-like interstitial zone between poetic paintings, photographs, and motion pictures with works by some of cinema's most seminal artists, including Werner Herzog, Alain Resnais, David Lynch and Hiroshi Teshigahara."

The series is curated by art/film/culture critic Donald Brackett, author and curator of The Cinematheque's 2013 retrospective, Strange Magic: The Films of Charles Brackett and Billy Wilder.

Brackett introduces Aguirre, The Wrath of God tomorrow night (7 p.m.). Other films in the series include Persona (also screening tomorrow night), Hiroshima, Mon Amour; Woman in the Dunes, Satyricon, and more. More information at VIFF.org.

Fair play

Royal City Musical Theatre presents My Fair Lady at the Massey in New Westminster until April 26. Tickets $26 to $47. Directed by Max Reimer. Starring Tracy Neff, Warren Kimmel, and more. Featuring James Bryson conducting a live 22-piece orchestra. Visit RoyalCityMusicalTheatre.com for more information.

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FUNDING

RCMP put more into terror investigations

The RCMP has been forced to shuffle more cash and officers into terrorism investigations as Ottawa's contribution has remained static over the last decade, documents show.

The Mounties diverted $22.9 million from other operations to the Integrated National Security Enforcement Teams (INSETs) in 2013-14.

The RCMP's share of INSET funding has been steadily rising from $717,000 in 2003 to more than $20 million for each of the last three fiscal years.

Meanwhile, the federal government's contribution to INSETs has remained static at $10 million a year since 2003.

NUMBERS

- **$717,716:** RCMP's contribution to INSETs in 2003-2004.
- **$22,864,779:** RCMP's contribution to INSETs in 2013-2014.

The documents state investigators have been reassigned, on a temporary basis, from "dedicated special investigative teams, surveillance, undercover teams, technical intercepts, analytical support, wiretap warrants and production orders." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FACEBOOK

Toddler's photo used in anti-vax campaign

Jeremy Nolais
Metro | Calgary

At just 20 months old, Calgary-area tot Adele Collins has already become a face for acceptance of people with Down syndrome.

But now the young girl's mother, Krista Rowland-Collins, is crying foul, as an anonymous Facebook entity has stolen a photo of the girl and repurposed it as part of a campaign claiming that, among other things, administering vaccinations to children can lead to them developing an extra chromosome and render them severely autistic.

The group, known as Disciples of The New Dawn, has also stated that mothers who don't breast-feed put their children at risk of developing autism and those opting to give birth via caesarean section are inferior. Adele's photo is one of many used by the group.

"Having them do this to our kids was so hurtful and so wrong," said Rowland-Collins.

Adele Collins' photo has been used on Facebook in an anti-vaccination campaign. CONTRIBUTED; USED WITH PERMISSION

She's fighting to have the Disciples page taken down and has been lodging complaints every day with Facebook about the group since first discovering her daughter's picture March 24.

To date, two editions of the Disciples page have been taken down — it's not clear by whom — but a "v3.0" offering remained active Wednesday afternoon.

Duffy trial focusing on primary residence

EXPENSE SCANDAL

Day 2: Both sides looking to define terms

In a trial expected to delve deep into the often murky rules of the Senate, an ordinary dictionary played a key role Wednesday during suspended senator Mike Duffy's second day in court.

The definition both sides were in search of: what it means for a place to be someone's primary residence.

It's a key element in the case. The 31 charges Duffy faces include allegations that he fraudulently claimed living expenses for a home in an Ottawa suburb, where he spent most of his time, while declaring a summer house in P.E.I. as his primary residence.

Retired Senate law clerk Mark Audcent was the Crown's first witness, telling the court that as part of his job, he briefed every new senator as part of an orientation process designed to provide an overview of the requirements of the job.

To be appointed a senator, court heard, a person must meet certain criteria, including being a resident of the province from which they were appointed.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced on Dec. 22, 2008 that Duffy would become a senator for Prince Edward Island.

Audcent told the court that in Duffy's orientation session — which took place the next day — he wouldn't have gone specifically over what it means to be a resident, saving such detailed discussions for if or when a senator asked for more information.

But by his own estimation, Audcent said, determining residency requires considering a set of indicators, among them where a person primarily lives, where they pay their taxes and get government services such as a health care and where they socialize, doing things like going to church or bowling.

But the meaning of residence has never been defined, either in the Constitution or by the Senate, Audcent acknowledged during cross-examination by Duffy's lawyer, Donald Bayne.

Bayne put pages of the concise Oxford English Dictionary in front of Audcent, having him read the definition of primary as "of chief importance or principal."

So, since the constitutionality of Duffy's appointment hinged on him being a resident of P.E.I., it must de facto be his "primary" residence, Bayne said.

"The minute his status changed form being a private journalist broadcaster to being a parliamentary, an appointed senator, the chiefly important residence for his status was P.E.I.," said Bayne.

"The one he needs to maintain, yes," answered Audcent, who had earlier told the court that in terms of determining residence there was no minimum number of days required to be spent in a home province. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Suspended senator Mike Duffy leaves court after the second day of his trial in Ottawa on Wednesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEMO

Mark Audcent was shown a memo that dealt with the section of the Constitution that talks about the need for a senator to be resident in the province represented.

The memo noted that the Senate is master of its own house when it comes to deciding what residency means and that no one had ever been disqualified from sitting in the Senate over a residency question, provided they continued to own property in the province they represented.

The memo said if a senator told the upper chamber he or she was a resident of a particular province, everyone accepted it.

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Roxanne Dube, centre, mother of Marc Wabafiyebazu, 15, leaves court. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Drug rip-off not teens' first: Docs

LAW

Diplomat's son appears in Miami court Wednesday

A Canadian teenager accused of involvement in a drug-related rip-off in Miami that left his older brother dead said they had pulled similar stunts in Canada, police documents state.

The documents obtained by The Canadian Press also show Marc Wabafiyebazu, son of a veteran diplomat, was brandishing a handgun outside a residence when police arrested him.

"(Wabafiyebazu) stated that he went to the house to steal the drugs while he waited in the car, but then his brother got killed," police say in an arrest affidavit.

"Defendant continued to state that he was from Canada and they had done the same type of thing in Canada and had also done other drug rip-offs in Miami."

Wabafiyebazu, 15, of Ottawa, appeared in a Miami court briefly on Wednesday. The prosecution said a grand jury would consider whether to bring formal felony murder or other charges against him.

Assistant State Attorney Marie Mato said the grand jury could also decide to charge him as an adult.

"If indeed that happens, we will be immediately entering a not guilty plea and defending the case on the merits," his lawyer, Curt Obront, said in an email.

Wabafiyebazu was arrested March 30 after the shooting deaths of his brother Jean, 17, and Joshua Wright, also 17.

Police allege the brothers had gone to a home with the intention of stealing marijuana from a dealer. While the younger sibling waited with the car outside, the older teen went inside.

"In the process of that rip-off, several shots were fired inside of the residence," police allege.

Responding officers found the older Wabafiyebazu and Wright dead inside.

Two other men, including Anthony Rodriguez, 19, the alleged dealer, were wounded and needed hospital treatment.

One witnesses told police she saw the younger brother firing a silver handgun "multiple times" outside the apartment. He was still holding the weapon when police arrested him, the documents state.

Zayas set an April 20 hearing on the results of the grand jury's work. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Canadian foreign aid spending declining

Canada ranked in the lower half of the pack in a world survey of foreign aid spending released Wednesday. The annual ranking by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development said Canada's aid spending dropped to 0.24 per cent of GDP in 2014, down from 0.27 per cent the previous year. That's well below the UN's target of 0.7 per cent of GDP.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NEWFOUNDLAND

Judge to report on police investigation

A retired provincial Supreme Court judge will report on the investigation into the shooting death of a man by a Royal Newfoundland Constabulary officer on the premier's security team.

The RCMP is leading the probe and says David Riche will fully assess its independence and thoroughness.

Don Dunphy, 59, was shot dead Sunday by an unnamed officer investigating perceived threats against provincial politicians on Twitter.

Riche's oversight is "in the interest of transparency and public confidence," RCMP Sgt. Greg Hicks said Wednesday.

Premier Paul Davis has said his staff alerted police about the Twitter posts Friday out of concern they could be threats against his family and that of a cabinet minister.

The Mounties say a loaded .22-calibre rifle was found beside Dunphy's body.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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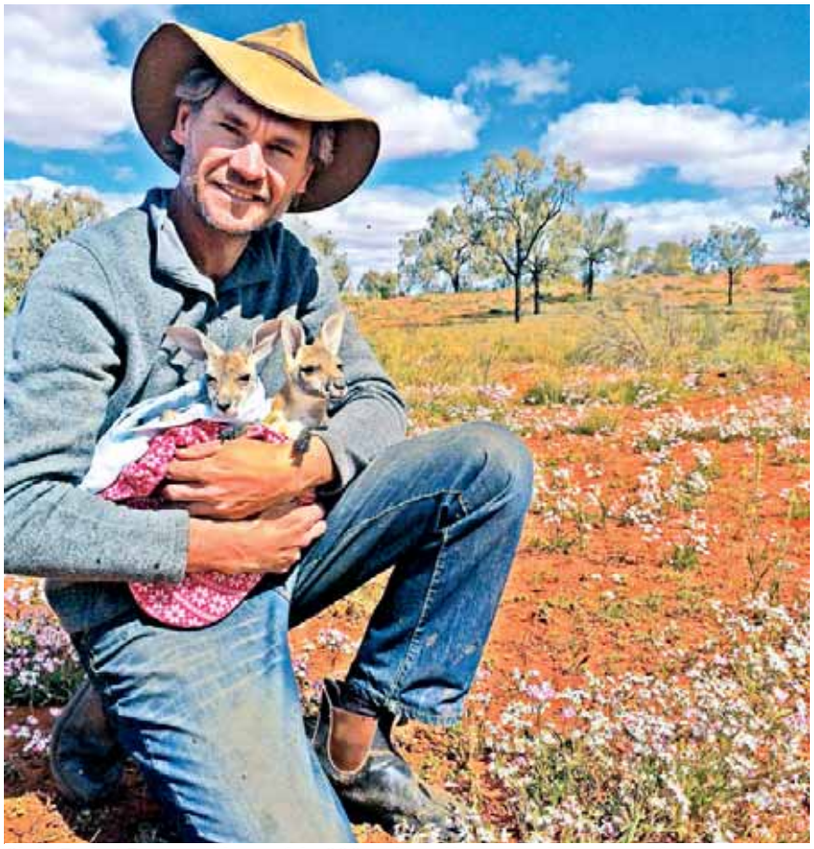

Chris (Brolga) Barnes, with two of the 200 orphaned kangaroos he has cared for. CONTRIBUTED

Meet Australia's kangaroo saviour

ANIMAL SANCTUARY

'Brolga' found a dead mother with a baby in her pouch

The first time Chris (Brolga) Barnes rescued an almost-dead baby kangaroo, he didn't know what to do. He just knew he had to do something.

That was nine years ago, when he was working as a tour guide in Australia's Northern Territory and saw an adult kangaroo lying in the middle of a highway. She was dead, likely killed days earlier. Whimpering in her pouch was her baby, while scavenging birds circled overhead.

Barnes took the baby home, named her Palau and nursed her for months. About a year later, he released her into the wild.

That is the short version of how Barnes, the six-foot-seven man with a big smile, first became a surrogate mom, then a heartthrob worldwide.

("Brolga" is the aboriginal word for a crane — so chosen because Barnes is so tall.)

He has since rescued more than 200 orphans, started a sanctuary outside Alice Springs, and even starred in a documentary, Kangaroo Dundee. Now he is about to start work on building a hospital for wildlife — kangaroos, camels — whatever size or shape they come in.

There are currently 35 kangaroos at the sanctuary — some are babies, some as old as 10. For the babies, he creates faux pouches of canvas bags, blankets or pillow cases that resemble a kangaroo mother's pouch.

"The babies need to be kept warm, so they go everywhere I go," he says.

Usually he has a couple of them sleeping with him at night, either snuggling with him or at his feet.

The sanctuary — 90 acres of bushland — is untouched so that the kangaroos feel like they are in a natural habitat before they are released into the wild.

> **"The babies need to be kept warm, so they go everywhere I go**
> Chris (Brolga) Barnes

Of the more than 200 kangaroo orphans he has rescued, most have survived.

They are orphaned either by hunters in the bush or by speeding cars on roads.

Adult kangaroos are tall and not hard to miss on the road, says Barnes. But they tend to nibble at grass on the shoulders and often dart without any warning, resulting in accidents.

Kangaroos are released from the sanctuary when they are 14 months old, usually in groups so they have better odds of survival.

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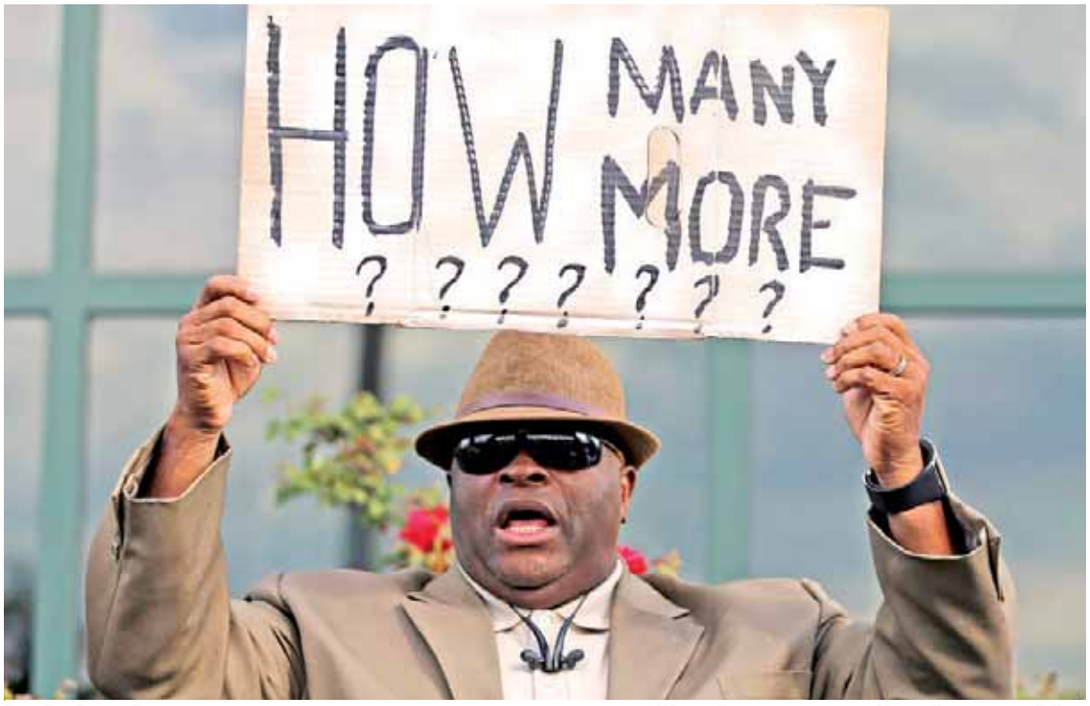

Rev. Dr. Arthur Prioleau holds a sign during a protest in the shooting death of Walter Scott at city hall in North Charleston, S.C., Wednesday. Scott was killed by a North Charleston police office after a traffic stop on Saturday. CHUCK BURTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

S.C. officer, charged with murder, is fired

POLICE BRUTALITY

Mayor orders police to wear body cameras

A white South Carolina police officer who claimed he killed an unarmed black man in self-defence has been fired, the city's mayor announced Wednesday, a day after the release of a video showing the officer firing eight shots at the fleeing man's back.

The mayor also announced that he had ordered body cameras to be worn by every single officer on the force in North Charleston.

Protests began within hours of the murder charge against Michael Thomas Slager.

"I have watched the video. And I was sickened by what I saw. And I have not watched it since," Police Chief Eddie Driggers said. He was interrupted by chants of "no justice, no peace" and other shouted questions that he and the mayor said they could not answer.

The town will continue to pay for Slager's health insurance because his wife is eight months pregnant, said Mayor Keith Summey, who called the incident a tragedy for two families.

About 75 people gathered outside City Hall, led by Black Lives Matter, a group formed after the fatal shooting of another black man in Ferguson, Mo.

> **"I almost couldn't look at it to see my son running defencelessly, being shot. It just tore my heart to pieces.**
>
> Judy Scott, the slain man's mother, on ABC's Good Morning America

"Eight shots in the back!" local organizer Muhiydin D'Baha shouted through a bullhorn. The crowd yelled, "In the back!" in response.

The video recorded by an unidentified bystander shows North Charleston Patrolman Michael Thomas Slager dropping his Taser, pulling out his Glock pistol and firing at Walter Lamer Scott from a distance as he runs away. The 50-year-old man falls after the eighth shot.

The dead man's father, Walter Scott Sr., said Wednesday that the officer "looked like he was trying to kill a deer running through the woods."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BOSTON MARATHON BOMBING

Tsarnaev found guilty on all 30 charges

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was convicted by a federal jury Wednesday on all charges in the Boston Marathon bombing; that jury now must decide whether the 21-year-old former college student should be executed.

Tsarnaev folded his arms, fidgeted and looked down at the defence table as he listened to one guilty verdict after another on all 30 counts against him, including conspiracy and deadly use of a weapon of mass destruction. Seventeen of those counts are punishable by death.

The verdict — reached after a day and a half of deliberations — was practically a foregone conclusion, given his lawyer's startling admission at the trial's outset that Tsarnaev carried out the terror attack with his now-dead older brother, Tamerlan.

The two shrapnel-packed pressure-cooker bombs that exploded near the finish line on April 15, 2013, killed three spectators and wounded more than 260 other people, turning the traditionally celebratory home stretch of the world-famous race into a scene of carnage and putting the city on edge for days.

Tsarnaev was found responsible not only for those deaths but for the killing of a Massachusetts Institute of Technology police officer who was gunned down days later.

In the trial's next phase, which could begin as early as Monday, the jury will hear evidence on whether Tsarnaev should get the death penalty or spend the rest of his life in prison.

In a bid to save him from a death sentence, defence attorney Judy Clarke has argued that Tsarnaev, then 19, fell under the influence of his radicalized brother. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Temp workers leave holes

EMPLOYMENT

Canadians aren't applying to fill vacant positions

Lucy Haines
For Metro | Edmonton

Over the past seven years, Grant McCurdy has staffed about 25 housekeeping and janitorial positions with temporary workers from other countries at the DoubleTree Hotel in Edmonton.

While he estimates 90 per cent of those workers now have Canadian citizenship and still work at the hotel, on April 1 McCurdy and many other Edmonton businesspeople lost temporary employees, when changes to the federal temporary worker program went into effect and tens of thousands of workers, including up to 16,000 in Alberta, were sent to their home countries.

McCurdy has lost three employees following the changes in positions that he said won't be easy to fill. "We're definitely feeling the impact," he said. "We pay the going rate, but it's not a high-paying field, and we're finding local people don't want the work. With camps closing in the oil patch, we thought we'd get a rush of applicants, but it's not happening."

Recruiting people to fill jobs is one of the industry's biggest problems, according to Alberta Hotel and Lodging Association president and CEO Dave Kaiser. He said workforce issues are on the agenda at the group's upcoming convention and town hall.

"It's a permanent problem — having to do more with less people," McCurdy said, pointing to the resulting move toward automated services in many hotels, like automated check-in and choosing your room on your cellphone. There are now even discounts for choosing infrequent housekeeping service — every two or three days instead of daily.

"Margins aren't great in the hotel business. We all have to look at ways to save labour," McCurdy said. "But it's a shame to lose good workers. We had to put people on return flights that have been here for several years. They have no jobs to go home to, but there's nothing we can do."

A housekeeping worker looks for rooms to clean at the DoubleTree Hotel. TOPHER SEGUIN/FOR METRO

Half of the workers sent home worked in low-wage service-sector jobs and thousands more in the construction industry.

"The change means employers in the low-wage service sector will have to pay higher wages. Our economy simply can't tolerate a two-tiered labour market," said Alberta Federation of Labour (AFL) president Gil McGowan.

While some 70,000 temporary workers are still in Alberta, McGowan said the AFL is calling for the program to be scrapped completely.

"The changes to the program are a significant step in the right direction," McGowan said.

"We don't want to see any more TFW permits for low-wage employers, but the workers who are already here should be allowed to stay."

IN BRIEF

Tories plan balanced budget legislation

Cabinet ministers would see their pay docked five per cent if the federal government fails to balance its books under proposed legislation critics denounced as symbolic at best, hypocrisy at worst. In addition, a deficit would spark an automatic operating freeze, said Finance Minister Joe Oliver Wednesday in a politely received pre-election speech, as he announced plans for a balanced-budget law promised by the Conservatives in 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Crickets eyed as protein source

Cricket-based protein powder is the next frontier for health enthusiasts thanks to an adventurous Winnipeg entrepreneur.

"Before we started making this I was putting raw crickets in my smoothies every morning," said Alex Drysdale, owner of Crik Nutrition and creator of what he says is Canada's first cricket protein powder.

Drysdale started playing around with the business idea last fall, when he realized the protein-rich bugs were underrepresented in the health supplement market.

A pound of crickets has twice the protein than a pound of beef and three times as much iron.

Drysdale is launching a Kickstarter campaign later this month to get Crik Nutrition off the ground. The protein powder will be available online soon if he can meet his $10,000 goal.

EVA WASNEY/FOR METRO WINNIPEG

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Your essential daily news
Thursday, April 9, 2015

PRO CON

Should we have a national pharmacare program?

YES: Canada's system is fragmented and inefficient

Every developed country with a universal health-care system has universal coverage of prescription drugs — except Canada. Without adequate coverage, one in 10 Canadians can't afford to take their prescriptions as written. Having multiple drug plans in every province decreases our purchasing power on the world market and increases admin costs. This leads to at least $4 billion in unnecessary costs every year. The proof that it would work is found in countries like the U.K., which provides universal coverage of necessary medicines at prices far lower than Canada, while attracting five times as much R&D on a per capita basis.

Steve Morgan is a professor with UBC and the founder of Pharmacare 2020.

NO: Sounds great on paper, but won't work in reality

1. Health care is clearly a provincial area of jurisdiction. 2. There's a perpetual tendency for those favouring new spending to make extremely optimistic cost assumptions. Costs are usually much higher. 3. Our system is one of the most expensive in the world. Maybe we need to look at fundamental reform rather than embedding pharmacare in a mediocre system. 4. Lowering costs puts downward pressure on pharma profits, which discourages investment in new drugs. Alternatively, they will inflate prices in other markets. Are we OK with people in other countries being charged through the nose so we can have cheap drugs?

Aaron Wudrick is the federal director of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation

Urban Outfitters' smudge kit an insensitive offering

Danielle Paradis

This week, Urban Outfitters came under scrutiny for its sale of a "Local Branch Smudge Kit" ($39.99 on sale from $52.00), a sort of pseudo-ceremonial kit marketed towards hipsters as "energy balancing" that contains a wild turkey smudging feather, stoneware smudging dish, candle and instructions.

Many indigenous people feel this is cultural appropriation. What is the big deal? To start with, there is not just one Native American culture; there are hundreds across the U.S. and Canada. Secondly, repeated missteps by retailers and non-indigenous fashion designers could be avoided if they took the opportunity to engage with indigenous communities in an authentic way, instead of commodifying and misappropriating sacred symbols. Simply put: If Urban Outfitters loves the aboriginal esthetic, maybe they should hire some aboriginal fashion designers and artists.

The manufacturers of the smudge kit are Mackenzie Edgerton and Blaine Vossler, a white couple who call themselves pioneers, live in an Airstream trailer, and also sell Old West-inspired cellphone holsters, bison beanies and shirts featuring buffalo and Native American arrowheads.

Reducing a sacred symbol for aboriginals to *product sku number 34519397* is problematic, says Max FineDay, president of the Students' Union at the University of Saskatchewan. FineDay, a young aboriginal man, grew up around indigenous activism. His involvements with indigenous issues are primarily in politics, but he doesn't miss a chance to speak out against cultural appropriation.

"The smudge kit shows a deep, deep ignorance about indigenous ceremonies, protocols, and laws that exist around use of medicine," FineDay said. "Selling a 'kit' that they market as a New Age/native-inspired answer to relieving stress from your nine-to-five grind is deeply disrespectful for those of us who still practise our traditional ceremonies."

The kit is just the latest misstep for Urban Outfitters. Last year, it found itself in legal trouble for its tacky line of "Navajo Hipster" panties and flasks. The Navajo Nation filed a lawsuit alleging breach of trademark and violations under the Indian Arts and Crafts Act, which prohibits misleading marketing of American Indian goods in the U.S. As of press time, the smudge kit has been quietly taken down from Urban Outfitters' website. They could not be reached for comment.

It gets tiring to call out corporations for appropriating aboriginal symbols. Whether it's war bonnets or smudge kits, after repeated offenses, they should know better. Says FineDay, "there's an opportunity here for Urban Outfitters to change what is accepted in the fashion industry — they should rise to the challenge."

Danielle Paradis is a writer from Edmonton. She writes about aboriginal issues, gender, education and pop culture.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

The ocean makes me inconsequential, and yet somehow complete

Clouds crowded over the stone buildings as I walked into work yesterday morning.

Dark, drizzling rain and wind — it felt like my home by the sea.

I left Victoria years ago, moved between landlocked cities and ended up in the Big Smoke, or maybe the Big Cement.

And I have never stopped yearning for the ocean. To smell it. To look out at the horizon, the water frothed and steel grey. Or look out at the lack of a horizon on white days when the sky and sea are indistinguishable.

It's more than a nice view: The ocean strips away thoughts and settles me. It dwarfs my small life by its size and power, makes me inconsequential, and yet somehow complete.

It's the exact opposite of a city's crowded sidewalks fenced in by skyscrapers, bumping shoulders with the competitors. The city judges. It demands that you constantly be someone, do something, worthwhile.

Mike O'Brien — a man I've never met — also feels the ocean's pull.

He has long lived in Winnipeg, is dying of cancer, and he recently returned home to Victoria.

"You spend the rest of your life trying to get back," Mike told a reporter who happened upon him, his son and wife by the water.

"I thought, okay, if I have time for one last trip (and my doctor told me I don't) where do I want to go? I want to come back here and see it one last time," he said.

It would be my last trip, too.

Sometimes, I look out at Lake Ontario and try to imagine it's the ocean. Sometimes when I hear a seagull's shriek I am, for a split second, on a rocky shore in B.C. at high tide.

On recent trips home, I've waded into frigid winter water just to feel the soft buoyancy, and taste the tang of seaweed and salt. It's not enough to look at the ocean, sometimes, for the worries to fade. I want to be swallowed.

"When I look out beyond the island, I like to imagine sailing off and not looking back," my sister, who lives in Vancouver, told me.

The horizon does draw you out to it. Out to nowhere, really, or everywhere.

And the tide doesn't care if you're there. When it's violent, it is not angry. When it's placid, it is not happy. It's never sad. It's never questioning. It never answers.

You are to it like a log. Accepted, not even for who you are, but simply for existing. And don't we all want that? That most seductive, liberating feeling. I will never stop seeking it.

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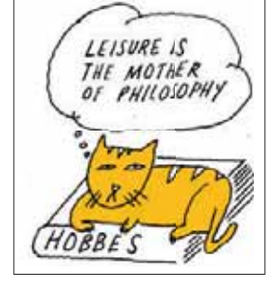


metro LIFE

Your essential daily news

Thursday, April 9, 2015

Hot sex, cold cash
Erotic series sells to Hachette, pg. 20

Fashion's new poster girls

ADVERTISING

Why major brands hire middle-aged beauties

Mature women are having a moment.

With her silver hair styled into a severe bob, clad all in black with huge sunglasses, 80-year-old author Joan Didion cuts a striking figure in the new ads for Celine.

A guitar-strumming, floppy hat-wearing Joni Mitchell, 71, fronts Saint Laurent's Music Project. Meanwhile Madonna, 56, has been posing for Versace, Julia Roberts, 47, is the face of Givenchy and Italian actress Monica Bellucci, 50, will soon be the oldest ever Bond girl.

But critics question whether this signals a real change in attitudes, or if it's simply the latest shock tactic by a fashion industry that will never give up its love of youth.

The senior market is "one of the most powerful consumer groups in mid- to long-term", said Magdalena Kondej, an analyst for Euromonitor International.

"This approach would also seem the best option for apparel brands and there is no shortage of poster girls for older, glamorous women," Kondej added.

On the catwalks, even if former supermodels Amber Valletta, 41, and Eva Herzigova, 42, both took to the runways in Paris in January, skinny young women still rule.

But Sylvie Fabregon, who runs the Masters and Silver agencies for older models in the French capital, says she is seeing increased demand for more mature women.

"People are not stupid — women have had enough of seeing 20-year-old girls in adverts for cosmetics to fight wrinkles they don't have," she said.

Sylviane Degunst, 56, was spotted by a model scout two years ago on a London street, and has since appeared in photo shoots for high-fashion brands as well as other adverts.

Slim, although not tall, she has killer cheekbones and hair that has been white since she was 18.

Degunst was a writer and publisher in her native France, but struggled to find work on moving to Britain and has embraced her new career.

"We're not in competition with the young girls, but I think it makes a nice contrast. It's interesting to mix things up."

Artist, writer and curator Sue Kreitzman insists that older women are becoming more visible in all public spheres, and even goes so far as to call it an "older lady revolution."

"It's happening slowly, but it really, really is happening," said the 75-year-old London-based New Yorker.

Kreitzman praises the Celine pictures for showing "that older people are here, we're beautiful — we count".

"What I love about it is that Joan Didion doesn't look (even) slightly bit young. She's gorgeous and she's an old lady," she told AFP.

Sandra Howard, a 74-year-old author who was a top model in the 1960s and 1970s, is skeptical about the new trend, saying the fashion ads featuring older women are "not about grey power, but the power to shock."

"It's one thing to have a beautiful older woman in a cosmetics ad — I think that does work," she told AFP, citing The Queen actress Helen Mirren's campaign for L'Oreal.

"I think in fashion photography you can mix in older and younger women, I think that's good. But if you go too much and do it as a gimmick, it's slightly offensive really."

However, she concedes things have moved on. "When I was modelling, you were old when you were 30!" she laughs.

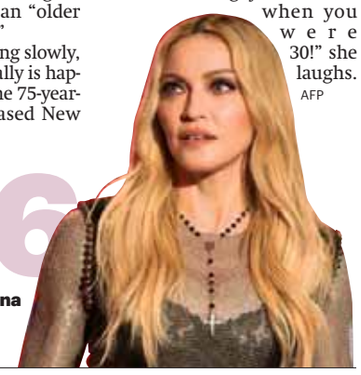
AFP

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

47
Julia Roberts

41
Amber Valletta

42
Eva Herzigova


56
Madonna

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DESIGN

There's a restaurant inside this truck

The Peugeot Le Bistrot du Lion Foodtruck, split open. PEUGEOT

Le Bistrot du Lion is a fully functioning food truck concept that offers space for up to 30 diners as well as chefs and a DJ and will be going into service at Milan Design Week.

The French may have been a little slower than North Americans to embrace the concept of the food truck, but Peugeot's latest concept shows that they're clearly making up for lost time. It could influence the growing food truck scene in Canada's urban markets as well.

Dubbed "Le Bistrot du Lion" by the team at the Peugeot Design Lab, the concept is much more than just a stripped-out and refitted van. Instead, working from a brief that demanded a complete dining experience, the food truck literally splits in two to create a kitchen and a dining space.

"We wanted to create a complete food truck experience, not only creating a kitchen for the chef, but a restaurant and café for the customers. A lot of attention was given to opening up the kitchen and allowing the chef and food preparation to be as close to the public as possible," Cathal Loughnane, head of Peugeot Design Lab. "We also wanted to create a real sense of surprise as the compact Peugeot Foodtruck transforms into an amphitheatre-like dining space."

The truck is certainly theatrical, but it is also a fully functional mobile kitchen. The truck will be put into active service, first at Milan Design Week, which opens its doors to the public on April 14, and then will be taking up residence at the French pavilion for the full six months of the 2015 Milan Expo.

As such, Peugeot partnered with leading French food truck builder Euromag to make sure the concept is up to the task and meets all health, safety and hygiene regulations.

The food preparation area is pro-grade featuring two grill plates, four induction burners, a deep fryer, a 400-litre under-floor cold store for food, a 350-litre fridge for drinks and of course a top-of-the-range espresso machine.

As for patrons, the truck can offer standing room for 30 customers at a time, shaded by parasols and entertained by an integrated DJ booth and a widescreen display that relays a live feed of the chefs at work in the kitchen.

Peugeot also claims that the truck has been set up to "recuperate and recycle all waste" so that nothing is left behind when it hits the road again. AFP

Versatile denim gets a modern makeover

SPRING-SUMMER 2015

This season's star fabric goes beyond jeans

Along with floral prints and military-style pieces, denim is a key trend this spring. And judging by the latest runway shows, the trend is set to continue through summer and into fall. Whether worn all over (the "Canadian tuxedo" look) or paired with more high-end materials such as lace, denim is everywhere this season, taking us back to the 1990s, only with more modern tailoring.

In jackets, skirts (mini or long), dresses, and jeans, denim is taking over everyone's wardrobe this season. The iconic fabric is the star of the season, whether raw, washed, printed, dyed or ripped.

Perennial runway staple

Last September, during the Spring-Summer 2015 fashion weeks in Paris, Milan, New York and London, denim made an appearance in nearly every show, not just those of jeans specialists.

There were denim jackets from Burberry Prorsum, denim skirts from Kenzo and even denim culottes from Stella McCartney. Gucci paired its denim jeans with tone-on-tone jean jackets. The French label Leonard, which presented a number of pieces in printed denim, combined the fabric with lace in playsuits, shirts and shorts.

Tie-ups galore

Confirming the current hype over the famously sturdy fabric, several labels have announced high-profile partnerships related to their new or existing denim lines, including spokesmodel deals and tie-ups with other labels for collections.

The latest and greatest of these collaborations is Italian design label Giambattista Valli teaming up with American jeans brand 7 For All Mankind. Presented during Milan fashion week, the capsule collection is full of vibrant colours and animal motifs that elevate denim to luxury apparel.

Finally, longtime denim specialists are attempting to maintain their edge through innovation. Pepe Jeans has come out with its Vacuum Seal, a skin-tight jean designed to hug and sculpt the legs, while Kaporal is touting its new ExtenDenim, designed to offer total freedom of movement and optimal comfort. AFP

A model walks the runway at the Lala Berlin show during the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Days Zurich show last November in Switzerland. At left: J.Crew cropped jeans. VITTORIO ZUNINO CELOTTO/GETTY IMAGES; LEFT: MCV/TNS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Stine: 'It's great to be killing teens again'

TEEN LIT

Author tells Metro how Twitter revived Fear Street

Emily Laurence
Metro | New York

R.L. Stine loves Twitter. The scary story writer not only used it to write an entire short story in rapid-fire tweets last Halloween, he uses it to interact with fans who were kept up all night reading his books in the '80s and '90s. Now, Stine is releasing Don't Stay Up Late, the second book in his revived Fear Street series next month:

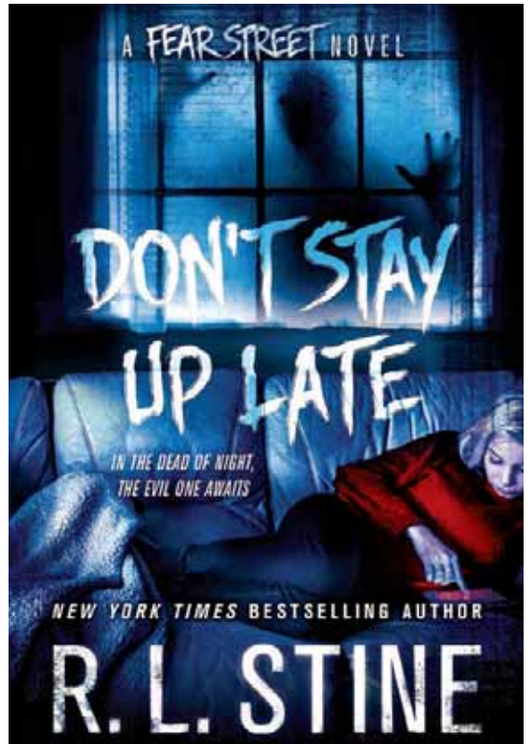
What went into the decision to revive Fear Street?
I did about 80 Fear Street books in the '80s and '90s and I just thought I had killed off enough teenagers for a while, so I stopped writing them for about 20 years. But my fans on Twitter kept asking me to write another one. I was really honest and told them that I had taken (Fear Street) to some publishers, but no one was interested. Ten minutes later, (an editor) at St. Martin's tweeted me and said she was interested. So, it's great to be killing teens again.

And Don't Stay Up Late is the second book in the revived series.
Right. I hadn't written a Fear Street book in 20 years, so I had to get out my map of Shadyside and remember the history, because there's this enormous backstory. I came up with a bunch of ideas and pitched them. The first one was Party Games, and Don't Stay Up Late is the second one. Wait until you read the third ... It has the most gruesome scene I've ever written.

When you wrote the original series, how fast were the books coming out?
Every month. People don't believe it, but I was actually writing two books a month, a Fear Street book and a Goosebumps book ... The excitement of having these bestsellers was so exhilarating.

The '90s had this obsession with Goosebumps, and shows like Are You Afraid Of The Dark? Why do you think kids were obsessed with being scared?
It was a fad for one thing. Kids want to do what other kids are doing. But when I asked kids what they liked about the books — because I didn't get it — they all said it was because they liked to be scared. I realized that people like to be scared if they know they are safe.

And what about you? Why do you love telling these stories?
This is what I do. I've been writing since I was nine. I was this weird kid in my room typing all the time. ... But I love these stories. I love thinking of new chapter endings. All my chapters end with a cliffhanger. I started out writing humor and writing a cliffhanger is the same thing as writing a punchline.



> **This is what I do. I've been writing since I was nine. I was this weird kid in my room typing all the time.**
> R.L. Stine

Did you like scary stories when you were a kid?
Yeah, I did. When I was a kid, there were these scary comics called Tales From The Crypt and The Vaults of Horror. They were creepy, but also really funny and they had all these great twist endings. They were very influential for me.

50 SHADES EFFECT

Self-published erotica scores $7M contract

Meredith Wild CONTRIBUTED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A million-selling, self-published author has a $7 million book deal. Forever, a romance imprint of Hachette Book Group, announced this week that it had signed 32-year-old Meredith Wild, whose Hacker erotic series has appeared on numerous best-seller lists.

Forever is reissuing the four current Hacker books as ebooks on Tuesday and as paperbacks on May 12.

The fifth and final book, Hard Love, is coming out in September. Wild's agent, Kimberly Brower, said the deal was worth $7 million.

According to Forever, the series not only has sold more than one million ebooks, but also around 200,000 copies in paper, a rarity for self-published works. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOOK NOTES

Google wins patent for spoiler-free surfing

A patent was awarded to Google this week for a program that would track your progress with content such as movies, books and TV shows and block social media posts that could carry spoilers. The patent, as spotted by Quartz, would blur out the potentially offending post, and a warning would pop up, asking the user if they want to read it. It is not clear which social networks Google would hope to integrate with, nor whether the company has real plans to develop the service. AFP

New e-reader weighs the same as a sushi roll

The new Kobo Glo HD, boasting a high-resolution screen, will begin rolling out May 1.It has a 300ppi, 6" Carta E Ink HD touch screen and a one-gigahertz processor, plus four GB of storage and a weight of 180 grams — "about the same as a sushi roll," says the company. The Glo HD will retail for $129.99. AFP

ANGRILY TWEET ABOUT NOT HAVING A SEAT

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A case of vanishing letters between Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie reportedly had the actor in "a panic." GETTY IMAGES

Brangelina's words of woe whip up ado

QUELLE HORREUR!

Private letters reportedly go missing from French estate

Ned Ehrbar
In Hollywood

Well, this is awkward. Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie could see their most intimate secrets revealed if a collection of correspondence between the two that went missing from their estate in France two years ago ever surfaces, according to the National Enquirer.

Oh, and the whole thing is reportedly Pitt's fault. "Brad went into a panic because he couldn't find them. He's terrified that they were lifted by someone who wants to publicly humiliate them," a source says.

The letters in question go up to 2013, when things weren't going so great, apparently.

"Late 2013 was the low point in their relationship," the source allegedly explains. "Brad was open about how he worried Angie might fall for a woman again, and he even brought up her previous issues with drugs."

OK, two things: One, this "source" seems to know an awful lot about the contents of the missing letters, which is more than a little suspicious. And two, the main takeaway here is that Pitt and Jolie actually write letters to each other, which is ridiculously endearing. I bet they even slip into casual French every now and then.

'90S UPDATE

She's all that again

Hollywood is out of ideas, as evidenced once again: The Weinstein Company and Miramax are working on a remake of the 1999 teen rom com She's All That, and honestly, doesn't Paul Walker's memory deserve better? The update will reportedly be directed by Spike Lee's wife, Tonya Lewis Lee, according to the Wrap. Also, not to get all nitpicky and film snobbish, but She's All That was already sort of a remake of My Fair Lady, which was a remake of Pygmalion, so would this truly be a remake? NED EHRBAR/METRO

Who asked for a She's All That remake? HANDOUT

JUST KIDDING

Noah no thief: Peters

Canadian comedy giant Russell Peters is stepping back from comments in which he accused incoming Daily Show host Trevor Noah of stealing his material.

The Brampton, Ont.-bred comic told a reporter with Channel NewsAsia's show Conversation With that Noah is a "thief."

But after the story was picked up by news outlets around the world, Peters took to Twitter to dismiss the accusations as nothing more than a joke.

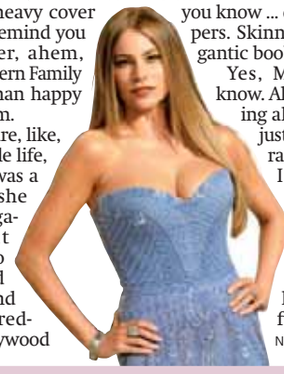
He tweeted to Noah: "I can't believe how gullible the media are! Next time I'll choose a less awkward time to prank U!"

Peters can be seen making the comments in a videotaped interview from Singapore making the rounds online.

The apparent joke follows similar allegations levelled at Noah from another comic, David Kau. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SOFIA VERGARA

Big bosom 'not fun'



Sofia Vergara is all over the latest issue of Vanity Fair, and in case the cleavage-heavy cover photo didn't remind you enough of her, ahem, assets, the Modern Family star is more than happy to discuss them.

"My boobs are, like, huge. My whole life, buying a bra was a nightmare," she tells the magazine. "What I used to do when I moved to L.A., I found places like Frederick's of Hollywood that make bras for streetwalkers.... I can't think of the word ... you know ... dancers ... strippers. Skinny girls with gigantic boobs."

Yes, Ms. Vergara. I know. Also! Don't go being all jealous of her just because of said rack. "Believe me, I wish I had fake boobs. I lay down and they completely go down like all the way, like here. It's not fun," she says. NED EHRBAR/METRO

BOOK NOTES

Jessica Seinfeld to serve up another cookbook, humour

Jessica Seinfeld is ready to guide you in the kitchen one more time.

The wife of comedian Jerry Seinfeld is writing two new books for Ballantine Books, an imprint of Random House.

The first, a cookbook, will be released in fall 2016; the second will be a collection of humorous essays and observations. She has written three bestselling cookbooks, one the target of a plagiarism lawsuit that was later dismissed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The quiet stillness of Jon Snow

GAME OF THRONES

Actor gives a cerebral slant to a show full of battles

Kit Harington plays Ned Stark's illegitimate son Jon Snow in Game of Thrones, which starts up again this Sunday. CONTRIBUTED

"Quiet" and "still" aren't words you might associate with Game of Thrones. HBO's epic fantasy, set in the make-believe continent of Westeros, typically swirls with warring armies, forbidding landscape, even fire-breathing dragons.

But Jon Snow embodies the meditative quality that regularly quells words and movement by the characters in favour of a moody immersion in this vast realm for the audience.

Through this universe roams Jon Snow, the illegitimate son of Lord Ned Stark and an outcast, a brooding warrior with haunted eyes, shaggy curls and a rosebud mouth from which few words issue.

That's the way Kit Harington, who plays Jon, likes it, as Thrones begins its fifth season Sunday at 9 p.m. EST on HBO.

"He's not a complicated character," says Harington, a compact but buff Brit of 28 whose earnest, subdued manner at an interview this week seems not so far removed from Jon's.

But that, perhaps, is where the similarity ends.

"There's a lot of turmoil, a lot of frustration and rage churning inside Jon — and that's where he keeps it," says Harington. "He doesn't overthink what's going on with him. He's not a modern man. He's not seeing a shrink."

Jon Snow looms large in a crush of characters portrayed by an evolving ensemble of stars who also include Peter Dinklage, Lena Headey, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau and Emilia Clarke. And while the scale of the series is vast, so is the inspiration: the five-and-counting novels by George R.R. Martin in the A Song of Ice and Fire series.

Harington was signed for Game of Thrones at its pilot stage following his run in the West End production of the hit play War Horse — which he had landed soon after graduating from London's Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. Thrones became his first television role.

> **"The part that feels real for me is doing the show. Walking onto set with CGI giants and talking about Valyrian steel — that's the most real part of my life."**
>
> Kit Harington on the present state of his life

It might have just been fate.

"What I've always responded to when watching actors is their stillness. When they're not making too many choices. When they're concentrating on what's going on up here" — he taps his temple — "rather than showing everybody what's going on with gestures. I believe in stillness, and that's how I like acting myself. Not doing too much.

"Maybe that's what they wanted for Jon."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Big Rock Urban opens April 10 in Brewery Creek

On April 10, Vancouver's Brewery Creek community at the north end of Main Street welcomes a new neighbour: Big Rock Urban Brewery.

To mark the occasion, the Canadian craft beer maker is introducing a new beer called Hollow Tree Pacific Northwest Red Ale. Brewmaster Jody Hammell was inspired to make the Pacific Northwest-style red ale after a walk near his former home in Squamish, he says.

"I was walking with my wife in the woods on a cool, wet day. We were surrounded by ferns, moss, and fallen red cedars and I realized that a red ale would be a perfect homage to the natural beauty of the West Coast," he says.

Visitors to Big Rock Urban Brewery will get the chance to sample Hollow Tree and other beers brewed in-house. The space, which was once used for movie sets, is now home to a restaurant, a tasting bar, a growler-refill station, and a retail store with merchandise for beer aficionados.

At the restaurant, Big Rock Urban Eatery, visitors overlook the brewery's state-of-the-art, stainless steel and copper-clad brewhouse equipment where their tasting flight was brewed.

The menu was created by executive chef Alex Newton and features locally sourced ingredients with twists like hop salt and IPA vinaigrette.

"We're here to offer our unique take on the dynamic craft beer and restaurant scene in Vancouver," says Newton.

Big Rock Urban Brewery holds its grand opening open house on Friday, April 10, at 310 West 4th Ave., near the Cambie Street Bridge.

metro HOME

Your essential daily news

Over one in four U.S. adults now live in households without landlines. AFP

What they're a$king

The term bungalow originated in India and has come to mean a single or one-and-a-half-storey, smaller, semi-detached home. From the biggest cities to the smallest towns, the ubiquitous bungalow is a popular and affordable alternative to small condos or pricier townhomes across Canada.

Duncan McAllister FOR METRO

OUR CITY

$850,000

Vancouver

This two-bedroom bungalow at 1042 Adderley St., in North Vancouver just sold at press time for $850,000. The Calverhall home has two bedrooms and one bathroom on the main floor, with a partially finished basement with its own access. It's located on a south-facing, 7,000-square-foot lot with laneway access. Listing agent Cathy Graham is with Royal LePage Susssex, 604-984-9711.

$349,900

Calgary

This two-bedroom, one-bathroom bungalow at 236 — 17 Avenue NE, is a great opportunity for first-time buyers who want a house at condo prices. It's located on a desirable street, one block between Centre Street and Edmonton Trail. Priced at $349,900, "it is one of the least expensive single-family homes available within Calgary's inner-city," says listing agent Bob Dawe, with RE/MAX real estate (Central), 403-276-7653.

$499,900

Toronto

This cute bungalow is located at 148 North Bonnington Ave., near Birchmount and St. Clair. It's a well-kept two-bedroom house of solid brick construction on a 40 by 108 foot private lot. Featuring tons of upgrades and a finished basement. Listing agent is Ray Cochrane at RE/MAX Hallmark Realty, 416-699-9292.

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metro
First-time Homebuyers
Thursday, April 9, 2015

Thinking of buying a house? Take note

Not everything is obvious when buying your first home, so be alert to ensure you aren't caught off guard. SHUTTERSTOCK

TIPS

To do and not to do when considering your first home

Stephanie Orford
For Metro

Are you reaching the cusp of financial stability (finally!) and considering buying your first home? You aren't out of the woods just yet.

Buying a home can be rewarding, but there are some dos and don'ts to consider, and not all of them are obvious, said Darcy Mcleod, president of the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver.

Here are some key steps and pitfalls to watch out for on the way to owning your first home.

FIND OUT WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD

First-time homebuyers will sometimes go out looking at homes before they understand the total costs of buying and owning a home, Mcleod said.

"They'll fall in love with something and find out that they can't afford it, and then the places that they can afford just don't measure up. Make sure you have your financial ducks in a row."

The antidote is to get pre-approved for a mortgage from your lender — a financial institution or mortgage broker.

Also, consider the nitty gritty costs, including mortgage payments, property taxes, insurance, utility costs, strata payments and maintenance. Find them all out and do the math before you commit.

ANALYZE YOUR NEEDS

"A mistake a lot of people make is they look at all the shiny pictures on the Internet without thinking of what's truly important in a home," Mcleod said.

This pitfall can waste a lot of time and energy if you are looking at homes that don't suit your lifestyle needs.

DON'T BE A STARRY-EYED IDEALIST

The average first-time homebuyer stays in their home for about five to seven years — not for a lifetime.

When you are looking for a place, if you aim for the absolutely, perfect, forever home, you are probably imposing too many barriers on yourself, Mcleod said.

DON'T OFFEND THE SELLER WITH A LOWBALL OFFER

"The tendency to want to get a really good deal on something can sometimes cause you to get less of a good deal," Mcleod said. "If you're buying a resale home, you have to understand the seller will have some emotional attachment to the home. Your realtor can help you establish what a reasonable value for the home is."

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE INSPECTING

Before you make an offer, you need to know what costs could rear their ugly heads down the road. Get a good home inspector to help give you the downlow. For a condo, that means making sure whole-building components such as plumbing and heating are in good condition. Detached homes come with a Pandora's box of issues to watch for — corroded oil tanks buried in the backyard, leaky poly-B plumbing pipes in some '80s homes, or incorrectly installed aluminum wiring that can pose a fire hazard.

Finding the perfect fit to make it home sweet home

A TD survey shows young people prefer urban living, while older Canadians lean towards small town or rural living. SHUTTERSTOCK IMAGES

The age of the suburb prevails.

According to according a recent TD survey, when it comes to raising a family, the preferred place to live is the 'burbs.

Despite the consensus, the survey did find a generational divide, with younger Canadians (or 33 per cent of those surveyed) preferring urban living, while older Canadians (or 32 per cent of those surveyed) opting for small town or rural living. The suburbs were the preference for 31 per cent of respondents.

It's about the importance of "homefitting" — or finding the right home for whatever stage of life you are at," said Kate Taylor, TD's senior manager of real estate secured lending.

"For example, many younger people clearly see the appeal of urban living, but that can come at a price, which makes it even more important to start saving for the home of your dreams as early as possible," adds Taylor.

Although millennials at 38 per cent and gen-X at 36 per cent were more likely to live in a major city, congestion and the high cost of urban living were the main reasons they would be deterred from raising a family there. They would, however, stay in the city, if they could find a family-sized condo, the study said.

"People buying a home in the city, whether it's a condo or a house, need to keep their options open in case they want to move later when their family situation changes," Taylor said.

As trading a smaller home for a bigger one takes careful planning, Taylor recommends products such as tax-free savings accounts and RRSPs, to take advantage of the federal government's Home Buyers' Plan, to prepare for higher monthly mortgage payments, property taxes and other associated costs.

METRO NEWS

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Buying a home: The first of many big-ticket expenditures

MONEY

Be sure to budget for all those extras

Camilla Cornell
For Metro

Homebuyers would be wise to budget for unforeseen expenditures, such as improvements to insulation. SHUTTERSTOCK

When Erik and Theresa Tsang bought a three-bedroom townhome in Newmarket, Ont., in 2012, they had already decided it wasn't their forever home.

"We didn't want to put too much money into it," Erik Tsang said. "It was already in fairly decent condition and, because we were planning to have a family, we knew we wanted some place bigger."

Those good intentions didn't hold.

"We had to buy some furniture because ours wasn't enough to fill the space," Tsang said. "And some of what we had didn't fit in the rooms we'd intended for it to go."

The price tag for furniture — about $10,000. Replacing the worn and dated stove cost another $600. Then the air conditioning unit broke, which cost $200 to fix. But the biggest expense of all was the water heater. When it stopped working, the couple was told the piping that fed it was no longer up to code and would have to be replaced. Portions of drywall had to be removed in order to reach the pipes. There went another $1,000.

"Buying a home is an expensive and stressful experience," said Jeffrey Schwartz, executive director of the non-profit Consolidated Credit Counselling Services of Canada. "The sticker price on the home and the closing costs are just the first steps."

In fact, a recent analysis of new homebuyers by the National Association of Home Builders in the U.S. found a home purchase typically triggers a flurry of other expenditures for appliances, furnishings and remodelling. During the first year after closing, the typical buyer spends on average $5,288 on furnishings, $4,279 on renovations and $2,769 on appliances.

Here is how to make sure you don't end up sinking under the weight of debt:

TRY TO CALCULATE THE LONG-TERM EXPENSES OF RUNNING THE HOUSE

"Typically, when you buy a bigger house, you've got bigger expenses," Schwartz said. "You have a bigger roof and furnace to replace and bigger bills for heat and hydro."

If you haven't compiled a budget, now is the time. You can find a basic budget sheet at consolidatedcredit.ca.

COUNT ON EMERGENCIES

Tsang's home was only 10 years old, but "even though we had a home inspector come in and look at it, they're not going to spot things like cracks in the pipes," he said. "You should probably have a buffer in your budget for when things go wrong."

Schwartz suggested having three to six months of living expenses in an emergency fund. Toronto real estate agent Collette Skelly said a small line of credit also does the trick.

PUT IN SOME SWEAT EQUITY

The Tsangs painted their home themselves. Skelly suggested bringing in a gang of friends to do what has to be done. "A case of beer goes a long way," she said.

OPT FOR GENTLY USED

Those ads for new condos with perfectly Zen rooms aren't realistic, Skelly said. "People don't really live like that. They bring in furniture from their own place and from grandma and the parents' house."

Her advice: Make do for a while.

"You don't want to buy a home, a condo or furniture unless you're sure you're going to like it for at least seven years."

You may even leave a few rooms empty. "I have tons of friends who moved into a house and didn't have any furniture in one of the rooms," Schwartz said.

PRIORITIZE THE RENOS

"Paint it all white," Skelly said. "Maybe get a new countertop and replace the terrible old stove and then leave the house alone for a year while you get used to those mortgage payments."

That will give you time to decide on your biggest priorities, whether that's a couple of new windows, a new floor or a countertop. "By that time, you may need a new roof," Skelly said.

DON'T GET HUNG UP ON THIS YEAR'S MODEL

Next year, that model will be passé, Schwartz said. "It costs money to be a first adopter."

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Are you looking for a specific item, whether it's a couch or a dishwasher? Educate yourself about what features and brand you are seeking. Check out flyers and websites and make a few calls to stores. Online price comparison websites can be a great resource, too, particularly for appliances. Good Canadian sites for electronics include shopbot.ca and pricegrabber.ca.

KNOW WHEN TO SHOP

January is especially good for white sales on sheets and bedding, as well as TVs. Refrigerators often drop in price in May, as new models begin appearing. Home-decor prices dip in July. It's also a good month to buy furniture as the latest designs are due to hit the showroom floor in the near future. Ask "is that your best price?" You can't bargain for everything, but you would be surprised how often you can get a discount when you use those five little words.

Questions about a new-built home

When Sharon and David Laws bought a new home in a London, Ont., development, they admit they underwent a baptism by fire.

"You have to make so many decisions, so quickly. And what you see in the model home is not what you're going to get," Sharon Laws said. "Often, they have features like beautiful hardwood floors, crown moulding and trade ceilings. But you're not going to get those things unless you pay a lot of extra money."

Read on for the essential questions to ask when buying a new build.

1 Does the builder have a good reputation? Ask friends and family for recommendations, said Frank Oliva, who recently downsized to a townhome in London, Ont. And find out how long the builder has been in business. "Ours had been around for 30 or 40 years," he said. "If they're bad, they don't exist for long." Gary Edwardes, a realtor and former builder, said to visit one of your builder's construction sites and get input from other homeowners who live in previously built subdivisions.

2 What is the average time to build? In larger developments or condo buildings, construction of your home may not begin until a certain percentage of units have been pre-sold, Edwardes said. That can mean a long delay before you take possession. And, yet, moving into the first phase of a project can mean coping with dust and dirt while the other homes are built. "When we bought our first home, we were the first house," Oliva said. "We lived in construction for five or six years." Ask for a schedule — including when the sod will go down — so you will know roughly what to expect. But recognize it's never carved in stone, Edwardes said. "You have to be willing to be flexible."

3 Can I get the floor plan down on paper? "Usually, you'd want a proper floor plan drawn up for you to sign," Edwardes said. Make sure it includes room dimensions and plan details. But recognize, he said, that "these are approximate. When we go to build there may be differences on-site that we can't do anything about." Still, if your floor plan is dramatically different than what you agreed on, you may be able to negotiate a discount or even ditch the deal.

4 What is included in the price? Start with the understanding that most of the finishes you see in that tricked-out model home are going to be upgrades, Laws said. Translation — they will cost you money. Ask what the average buyer has spent on upgrades and try to build some of those extras into the price at the point of negotiation. "You're not going to get anything after you've signed that contract," Laws said.

5 How many walk-throughs will I have? Most builders allow you to go through the house at least once before the drywall goes up. That's when you might realize, for instance, that the standard number of pot lights is going to leave your basement dark and uninviting. Or you need an extra plug or cable outlet. "You're going to have to pay for it," Edwardes said, but it will cost a lot more later. "I wouldn't buy a house from a builder who wouldn't allow at least one walk-through."

Make sure you see and sign a proper floor plan that includes room dimensions and plan details. SHUTTERSTOCK

CAMILLA CORNELL/FOR METRO

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Women lead way in real estate

FIRST HOME

More women than ever are buying homes on their own

Jen Traplin
For Metro

Sonya Singh settled on a one-bedroom condo townhome in downtown Toronto. CONTRIBUTED

Two years ago, Sonya Singh was looking to plant her roots in a city and figured real estate was her answer.

Opting to stay away from high-rise condominiums, she eventually settled on a one-bedroom condo townhome in downtown Toronto.

That she would be purchasing real estate on her own, Singh said, was scary, but she knew the time was right, calling it the best financial decision she has ever made.

"As a woman in her 30s, you start thinking that you should be looking at a home as part of a relationship," she said. "But your home defines you as your place of growth and, one day, when you are in a relationship, you can grow into a bigger home.

"I was tired of renting and paying someone else for their property. There's a sense of security and independence that comes with purchasing your first home."

Singh isn't alone. Roughly one in four Canadian homebuyers is a single woman.

Real estate expert and TV personality Sandra Rinomato said women purchasing real estate on their own is a clear trend.

"There are more women buying real estate than there are men buying, and there are many more women buying now than there was even 20 years ago," she said.

Until just a few decades ago, according to Rinomato, women had a hard time purchasing homes or even getting credit cards without a male co-signer.

She feels the industry has been slow to catch up, but is now taking steps to recognize this trend.

"Women aren't getting married right out of high school and we're pursuing careers and, one day, I realize the typical 1.7 kids and the white picket fence isn't for me — I don't want to rent, I want to nest and I want something comfortable for me and I want to be financially secure."

Helga Teitsson, a real estate broker in Toronto and creator of the website Smart Women Buy Real Estate (smartwomenbuyrealestate.ca), said clients share that mindset. She said investing in real estate is the smartest financial decision women can make.

"Typically, women would wait until they found 'Mr. Right' and they were getting married and then they would buy their first home," Teitsson said. "That's not the case anymore. It's really important for women to secure their financial future with real estate."

The math is simple, Teitsson said — if you purchase a condo for $400,000 and its value appreciates modestly by an average of five per cent per year, that's an increase in the value of your home of $20,000 year after year. At the end of five years, you are already up by roughly $100,000.

"If you were in a rental and you were throwing $2,000 a month into rent, you're losing $24,000 a year and have no equity," Teitsson said. "You're paying someone else's mortgage and not your own."

Teitsson and Rinomato agree that jumping into the real estate game on your own — whether you are a woman or a man — isn't for the faint of heart.

"When I bought my first place on my own, it was a forced savings account for me," Rinomato said. "I couldn't buy that Gucci bag or take that trip to Hawaii.

"You have to make sure that you're ready and it's the right decision for you. If you're on a budget, know your numbers and understand them."

Team up for your first home

Vawn Himmelsbach
For Metro

Buying a house with friends or family can be a more realistic, budget-friendly way for to enter the market. SHUTTERSTOCK

A $1 million home is the new normal in Toronto — and that means the prospect of buying a house can be daunting, to say the least, for first-time buyers.

The average price of a detached home has crossed the seven-figure threshold, reaching $1,040,018, according to the Toronto Real Estate Board. And housing prices are expected to increase an additional 4 per cent this year, according to ReMax's annual Housing Market Outlook Report.

That could be why we're starting to see less conventional approaches to buying property.

According to a 2014 survey by TD, four in 10 Canadians believe buying a house with friends or family members is a good way to get into the housing market, whether buying a primary residence or vacation home.

"It's actually becoming more and more common," says Michelle Snow, associate vice-president of retail products at TD.

Snow also knows this from personal experience: She bought her first home with a friend, since they both felt owning a home was more economical than renting. They hired a lawyer and came up with a legal agreement that covered how long they would own the house together and what would happen if one person wanted to sell and the other didn't.

"It sparked those conversations," said Snow. "It makes you approach it more like a business than an emotional decision."

They each came to the table with 50 per cent of the down payment and committed to paying 50 per cent of the mortgage.

"We took it even further and opened up a joint account and managed our expenses out of that joint account," explains Snow. That ensured one person wouldn't feel as though she was contributing more to household expenses, even if it was just $10 on paper towels.

They had agreed to own the house together for five years, but her friend decided to sell her half after three years since she needed the equity to pay for her MBA.

"So she carried the weight of finding somebody else to take her half of the mortgage," says Snow.

"Your mortgage specialist can help navigate some of those conversations," she adds. This is particularly important if you're not splitting the costs 50/50; that makes things more complicated, especially when it comes time to sell and equity has been built.

Jeff Cody, a mortgage broker and spokesperson for the Independent Mortgage Brokers Association of Ontario, says he often sees parents help out an adult child with a down payment or mortgage. They might split the mortgage, "gift" the child a down payment or rent out part of the house to help cover costs.

"The other thing I've seen is where a couple of friends buy a duplex so each person has their own unit," says Cody. But, if they're splitting the mortgage and one person doesn't pay his half, the bank can go after the other person for payment. That's why it's important to draw up a legal agreement separate from the purchase agreement, he said.

DECISIONS

TD's Michelle Snow says:

- Discuss how monthly mortgage payments will be made after the purchase.
- Decide how taxes, insurance, utilities, repairs and maintenance fees fit into the overall budget. Consider opening a joint account.
- Decide how long you will own the property together (it probably won't be forever) and what will happen if one person wants to sell and the other doesn't.

MOVING IN

Sell or rent: Weigh the benefits of each

Consider the pros and cons before putting up the for sale sign. SHUTTERSTOCK

You meet someone, fall in love, and before long, you are talking property. At some point you may ask, what should be done with a spare house?

My husband and I faced this question when we decided to purchase a home together. I already owned a house that I was emotionally attached to, though it didn't offer the space we needed. We debated pitching a for sale sign on the lawn, but, ultimately, turned it into a rental.

Whether you wish to list or generate extra income, both carry pros and cons, said sales rep Brendan Powell with the Brel team.

"If you can afford to hold the property and own your primary residence then you can potentially benefit from the gain in value over time," Powell said. "What better way to have control over that part of your investments than managing your own property?"

On the flipside, "selling locks in whatever return you have made since you bought and frees that cash up for you to use somewhere else."

Holding property sounds appealing, but managing it can get gritty. When Bowmanville, Ont.-based Lesley Rodrigues met her husband, she was renting out her Pickering, Ont., townhouse.

"When my tenant decided to leave, we moved into it together," she said. "After a while we bought a bigger place, so I rented the townhouse out again."

Last year, a bad tenant prompted them to sell.

Cheques were bouncing and the house was getting ruined.

Mathieu Yuill, a real estate investor since 2004, believes the benefits outweigh the risks.

"There is a lot you can do to increase the value of your property, unlike other investments," he said. "Real estate allows you to buy an asset without paying the full price via a mortgage. It's hard to find that with other investments." TANYA ENBERG/FOR METRO

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Small space, big expectations

FIRST HOME

Living quarters are shrinking, but you don't need to go small on style

Jennifer Barry
For Metro

This white interior shows the use of roller shades, acrylic, and a full-size, comfortable sofa. CONTRIBUTED

Interior designers and furniture makers are keenly aware of what people want, and are constantly innovating to make the most of small spaces.

Robert Whitfield, owner of furniture store, Casalife, says when he started 12 years ago, the need for reduced-size furniture was becoming increasingly apparent.

It's not just young people, says Whitfield, it's older people too who are downsizing.

He designed a drawer-bed, and has been helping people store their socks and saucepans in sleek modern ways ever since.

"Myriad things can become a multifunctional piece — coffee tables can become dining tables, wall beds can become sofas," he says.

But it's all about making a plan and "configuring," furniture and accessories to fit the space you've got, says Whitfield. "The days of walking into a store and buying a sofa and expecting it to fit are over," he says. "When it's a small space, a few inches can make a lot of difference."

That's where people such as Yanic Simard, principal designer of the Toronto Interior Design Group, come in. Simard has learned a few tricks to make the most of "cozy quarters" over the years.

He recommends eye-catching décor, perhaps custom or vintage pieces, combined with travel mementos and personal keepsakes or some bold art.

"This makes for a more interesting space, allowing your eye to move around the room instead of focusing on one specific area, ultimately distracting from things that you may want to go unnoticed, for example the fact that the interior size is on the minimal side," Simard says.

And if you've got a view, flaunt it. "A lot of high-rises are made up of mainly windows with hardly any wall space. Keep the drapery light and simple by installing sheers or roller shades, avoiding heavy or dark materials," says Simard.

"With more windows comes less room for wall art, so make use of the floor space by bringing the artwork to floor level with vibrant area rugs."

In terms of furnishings, don't compromise on quality or size, Simard advises.

"All of my small-space clients still want a comfortable deep sofa and a nice queen- or king-size bed," he says, "which is usually possible if the rest of the space is planned well and accented with transparent tables and chairs, with metallic touches throughout."

According to Simard, the main trend for small spaces right now is European-style, slim-line appliances, with counter-depth, extra tall fridges.

Challie Stillman, design director at Resource Furniture, which specializes in space-saving pieces, says downsizing your life does not mean giving up on functionality.

"In fact, many people are making the conscious decision to change their lifestyle because simple, well-designed spaces are enhancing the way they live," he says. "For anyone who wants to live in walkable downtown areas with easy access to restaurants, culture and nightlife, small and intelligently-designed living spaces are able to grant more people access to these areas of high demand."

Stillman believes as more and more people become conscious about their environmental footprint, the demand for quality items and long-lasting materials will grow.

This blue Annette kitchen features European-style, small-space appliances, and bistro table and chairs. CONTRIBUTED

Smarten up homes with a smartphone

Tanya Enberg
For Metro

Wink's app door locking and unlocking system, left, and temperature control. CONTRIBUTED

Dim the lights, check the locks, receive alerts from security cameras, have the air conditioner power up before you arrive home and program the blinds to automatically lower at bedtime.

These are just some of the things a smart home can do.

What was once considered futuristic, complex and exclusive to the whims of the wealthy has become easy, affordable and accessible to the average consumer with home devices programmable through your smartphone, which can be controlled remotely.

According to Matt McGovren, marketing director for the Wink app, the popularity of smartphones and apps has inspired innovative ways to connect and customize one's living space.

"I want to change my bank statement, I want to book a flight — I can do that right now," he said. "That kind of changed the mentality to, 'Why don't I know what's going on at home? My family's there and it's the largest investment I've ever made, why am I not connected?'"

Last year, Wink (currently available for Android and iOS) partnered with Home Depot to offer more than 70 home and lifestyle products in Canada — from security cameras and light switches to blinds and thermostats — that can all be managed by downloading the free app. Some of the appliances work by syncing to the app directly, whereas others connect through a home-based Wink hub.

While McGovren said some consumers still find the concept of high-tech homes intimidating, he said a smart home is identifiable by three simple things.

"One, that you can reach out to your home, touch it, and make it do things from anywhere — you can unlock the door, change the thermostat, look at the camera, those kind of things.

"The second thing is your home can reach out to you. It can give you info when you're not there or when you are there — is it the right temperature? Is the door unlocked? Did somebody get home?

"The third thing is your home starts to do things on its own where you can say, for instance, 'If the door is open, turn the light on.'"

According to a new survey by Coldwell Banker Real Estate out of the U.S., 64 per cent of sales associates surveyed believe that buyers today are more interested in homes with smart home features than they were two to five years ago, with gen-Xers revealed as the largest group interested in buying smart home technology.

TACKLE MY RENO

Dos and don't's when seeking a reputable contractor

On the field, former CFL player Sebastian Clovis was a defensive back who won a Grey Cup with his team. Off the field, he is an independent contractor who also helps DIY homeowners in distress on HGTV's Tackle My Reno.

Here are Clovis's tips for finding and hiring a reputable contractor for your own reno project.

How do you recommend that a homeowner search for a reputable contractor?
Your first instinct might be to go to Google and type in "contractors," but the best contractors rely on their reputation and word-of-mouth referrals. Ask your friends and family. Your real estate agent and home inspector can often give you a nod in the right direction, as well.

A home renovation is one of the biggest investments you'll ever make, so you absolutely need to get quotes from as many contractors as you can.

What are some questions you should ask a contractor?
When looking for a contractor, you should ask for a portfolio, which displays a licence, insurance, photos of work done, and a list of references.

You should also ask questions, such as: how long have you been in the business? What do you specialize in? Have you done this particular type of renovation before?

Should you interview a contractor in person?
Always, always interview them in person. As much as a portfolio speaks volumes about a contractor, you also need to get a sense of who they are and whether or not they are someone that you can work with.

Any red flags one should watch out for?
You want to look out for contractors who ask for large sums of money up front – good contractors never ask for more than 10 per cent. If someone asks for half up front, I don't care which way you turn, just turn around and run.

How do you know what type of contractor should be hired for a job?
You want a contractor who deals with home renovations as opposed to new builds.

They are completely different animals. In new home construction, you have to understand the home from top to bottom and work from a clean palette. With renovations, you have to understand the home from top to bottom and be skilled enough to tie in new work to an already existing frame.

Sebastian Clovis. CONTRIBUTED

Do you have tips for negotiating a contract?
Once a contractor locks in the price, it's because he has worked through the project and the price will be firm. By arguing the price, you will either drive that renovator away, or he will start slashing away at quality of product and workmanship to make up for it.

TARA NOLAN/FOR METRO

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Julie Palich, her six-year-old son Lachlan, and husband Ben prep their home in Toronto for showings on the Easter long weekend. Moving out of the home and making the space kid-friendly are two tips real estate agent Shea Warrington recommends before a house is shown to potential buyers. PEYMAN SOHEILI/FOR METRO

Six ways to survive showing your home

OPEN HOUSE

How to prepare when prospective homebuyers come knocking

Henrietta Walmark
For Metro

You have made the decision to sell your house and now you have people walking through every inch of it.

Here's what to do and expect when showing your home.

MOVE OUT

It's usually less disruptive for clients with children and pets to temporarily move out when selling their home, said Shea Warrington with Real Estate Homeward in Toronto.

"I have four kids and it's not easy to stay on top of toilet seats being down. Or worse, not being flushed."

One Toronto couple in the midst of listing their home, plan to move their young family out of the house for two weeks while their home is staged, photographed and shown.

"It's so much easier to not be around so the agent has free reign to book appointments as needed," said Lindsay Fleming, the mother of two young girls. "It just makes life much easier when there's little ones."

Lindsay Wright of Wright Sisters Group with ReMax, couldn't agree more.

"Moving out is ideal and it's also a great time to take a family vacation," Wright said.

STOP COOKING

If a family is staying in their home while they are selling, Warrington suggests they don't cook.

"Ideally, a house should smell fresh, clean and free of scents, including perfume, air fresheners, or cooking odours.

"If you have a hot property, you're hoping for lots of action, which generally means evening showings. So, sometimes, it's best to plan to eat out."

BOARD THE PETS

Scent can also be an issue when it comes to pets, Warrington said. And pets can often complicate the showing process if a prospective buyer is allergic or nervous around animals.

"Showings can also be hard for pets," Wright said.

The real estate agent recommends using a doggie daycare. When the weather is nice, putting the dog in the backyard during a last-minute showing is also an option, she said.

KEEP IT KID-FRIENDLY

For clients with infants, Wright recommends restrictions on showing hours, such as no showings after 7 p.m., so there is as little disruption as possible to baby routines. And for new listings, she also likes to invite the whole neighbourhood to an evening showing so everyone can have a look at the house at the same time.

A tip Warrington gives her clients with kids is to keep a basket of toys that's easily accessible when they are home but also easy to tuck away in a hurry.

DON'T HIDE ANYTHING

Property management executive Sonya Buikema, who has been through the selling and showing cycle several times, said she wouldn't recommend trying to hide anything dirty, anywhere.

"People look everywhere," she said.

And even if they don't, that last-minute solution could create other problems, like they did for her sister.

Several years ago, the harried Burlington, Ont. mother of two teens shoved empty pizza boxes into the oven before an unexpected showing. Hours later, the boxes forgotten, she turned on the oven, and had to call the fire department when smoke filled the house.

DE-CLUTTER

Whether you hire professionals or self-edit your furniture and furnishings, like property management executive Sonya Buikema did, staging will do more than make your place more attractive to buyers, and easier to keep clean and tidy.

When Buikema and her husband listed their home in Toronto in late 2012, the family packed up half of the house to get it ready for sale. All non-essential items — including clothing, coats, shoes and furniture — were boxed up and placed in a storage facility.

"When it came time to pack up for moving, half the work was already done," she said.

A little priming goes a long way

It's spring and you've decided to sell your home. After all, in this hot real estate market, you're sure to sell fast and for top dollar, right?

Well, yes and no. You might sell quickly but maybe not for the best price, according to Samantha Pynn, Toronto-based designer and host of Open House Overhaul, a new HGTV show that helps homeowners prime their places when it's time to sell. Here are Pynn's tips for putting your best house forward.

Get rid of that bright red accent wall in your dining room and replace it with a clean, neutral paint colour, perhaps looking to the latest in interior-design trends for inspiration.

Change the feel of your home from the ground up by replacing the floors with an affordable option like laminate. SHUTTERSTOCK IMAGES

FLOOR YOUR BUYERS A surefire way to keep your open house on solid ground — update your flooring. "If you've got old, worn-out carpets that are stained and buckling in places, if possible, remove them," said Pynn.

"Put in wood, or a floating floor, or the easy-to-install luxury vinyl tile that looks like wood. Don't cheap out with a low-quality laminate that you can feel lifting every time you step."

An engineered hardwood click floor, Pynn said, is a great investment that's going to go a long way.

DE-PERSONALIZE WITH PAINT "If you've got feature walls that are red, or if there are purple stripes or you decided you wanted to paint your trim lime green, it's really distracting for buyers when they walk into your home," said Pynn.

Thankfully, the solution is as close as your nearest paint store and as inexpensive as purchasing a few gallons of paint and a roller.

GET THE LIGHT RIGHT Got compact fluorescent bulbs above your bathroom vanity mirror? Switch 'em out, says Pynn.

"You need the right light bulbs for the fixtures you have," she says. "If it feels like a 1980s office in your house, you're going to want to change your light bulbs."

But don't stop there. Pynn advises thinking of lighting in terms of layers by making use of lamps.

"A great floor lamp will make a big difference in a living room."

JACQUELINE KOVACS/FOR METRO

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Thursday, April 9, 2015

MLS

Whitecaps come back to earn 2-2 draw

It didn't take long for Kekuta Manneh to make his presence felt for the Vancouver Whitecaps. Of course, that is once he entered Wednesday's match versus the Columbus Crew in the second half.

After setting up Pedro Morales for an unsuccessful chance seconds after coming off the bench, Manneh assisted on a Darren Mattocks goal in the 64th minute that got the Whitecaps back into a tie game before an ecstatic crowd at BC Place Stadium.

On what looked to be a dead play, Manneh suddenly sped onto the ball near the goal-line, and dished it to Mattocks, who showed poise in placing his shot into the back of the net for his first goal of the season.

The Whitecaps pressed for the go-ahead goal and had multiple chances, but couldn't beat Columbus goalkeeper Steve Clark, as they had to settle for a 2-2 draw.

The result ends Vancouver's winning streak at four games, however, the Whitecaps have now earned points in five of their first six games to begin the season.

Twice in this match, the Whitecaps fell behind the Crew.

Octavio Rivero got Vancouver on the board in the first half, scoring his fifth goal of the season.

The Whitecaps are on the road to play the San Jose Earthquakes on Saturday. CAM TUCKER/METRO

Miller pushing to get in action before playoffs

CANUCKS

Goaltending situation remains undecided

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

With two games remaining in their season, time is running out for the Canucks to get Ryan Miller into game action before the Stanley Cup playoffs begin.

The topic of who starts in net for Game 1 of the first round, which gets underway next week, is an intriguing one given how well Eddie Lack has played since Miller suffered a knee sprain in late-February.

Do the Canucks continue with Lack, who has never appeared in an NHL post-season game, or do they go with Miller, the veteran with a three-year, $18-million deal who is working his way back from a serious injury?

"You never make that decision right now. That decision will be made before the first playoff game," said head coach Willie Desjardins.

"But saying that, I think Eddie has played really well. We needed him to step up. We had a lot of hockey left without Ryan and he did a terrific job for us and certainly got us into the playoffs. So you'll always take that into consideration."

Ryan Miller has not played since suffering a knee sprain on Feb. 22. ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

Miller skated with the rest of his teammates as the Canucks returned to practice after a day off Tuesday and clinched a playoff berth later that same night.

The Canucks finish the season against the Arizona Coyotes on Thursday and the Oilers on Saturday. Both games are at Rogers Arena. Miller, who seemed optimistic with how this latest phase of his recovery is proceeding, was hoping to get into one of the remaining games before the post-season begins.

"I was pushing, trying to get back for one of the last games," said Miller. "If I was going to have an opportunity to get some game action, that would be the hope."

+ SIGNINGS

Dorsett, Sbisa ink multi-year contracts

The Vancouver Canucks announced Tuesday that the club had re-signed gritty forward Derek Dorsett and defenceman Luca Sbisa.

Dorsett's new contract is four years, with annual average value of $2.65 million, according to TSN's Bob McKenzie. Sbisa's three-year deal is worth an annual average value of $3.6 million, according to Dan Murphy of Sportsnet.

Dorsett was a pending unrestricted free agent.

The Canucks acquired Sbisa in the Ryan Kesler deal, and Dorsett from the New York Rangers for the 85th overall pick at last year's draft.

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Cook time: 10

Directions

1. To make the burgers, combine the ground beef, egg, dried basil and oregano, breadcrumbs, ketchup, garlic, onion and feta in a large bowl and shape into 4 burger patties. Grill or sauté in a pan lightly coated with cooking spray. Cook on one side for 7 minutes, then turn over and cook 3 to 5 more minutes or just until beef is done.

2. Combine all the sauce ingredients in a food processor and purée until smooth.

3. Serve the burgers with the sauce and garnish with fresh basil or parsley.

Ingredients
Burgers:
- 1 lb extra-lean ground beef
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 3 tbsp seasoned dry breadcrumbs
- 3 tbsp ketchup
- 2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese (about 1 oz)

Sauce:
- 1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese (about 1 oz)
- 1/4 cup light cream cheese (about 2 oz), softened
- 3 tbsp low-fat plain yogurt (or sour cream)
- 1/2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tbsp water
- 1/2 tsp dried basil

Garnish (optional):
- 3 Tbsp chopped fresh basil or parsley

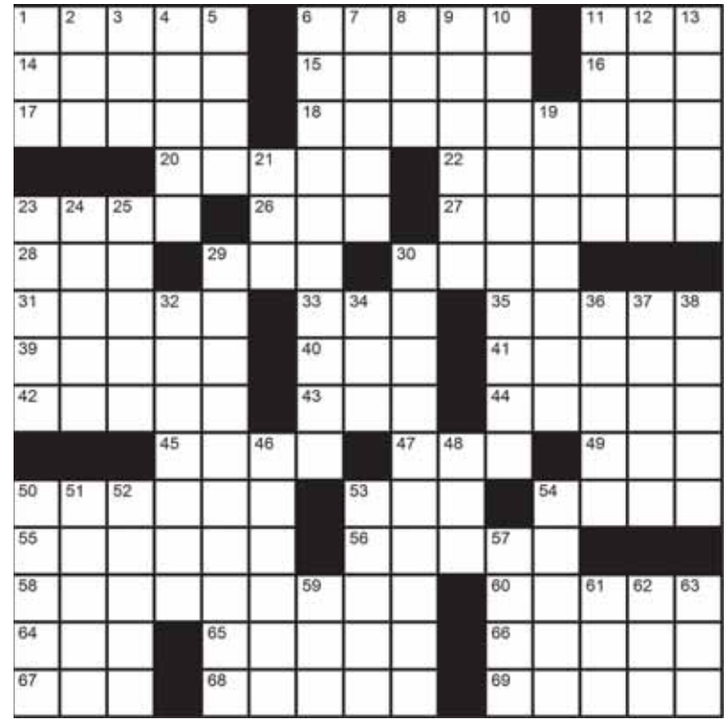
Nutrition per serving (per burger)
- Calories 257
- Protein 29 g
- Carbohydrates 11 g
- Fibre 0.9 g
- Total fat 11 g
- Saturated fat 4.8 g
- Cholesterol 126 mg
- Sodium 370 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ANSWERS ONLINE metronews.ca



ACROSS
1. "Mr. D" on CBC actor Mr. Savage
6. DOB's 'B'
11. 'Box of chocolates' movie character ...his initials-sharers
14. 'The Hub' of Nova Scotia
15. "It's _ __ country!"
16. 'Motor' suffix
17. __ charge (Held the helm)
18. Ship's hull creatures
20. Green hue
22. Farine d'__ (French for 'oat flour')
23. Maintenance
26. Dining surface [abbr.]
27. The __ (Canadian a cappella group)
28. Overseas MTV honour [acronym]
29. Bzzz-er
30. Where to look in the song "Misty": 2 wds.
31. Persian Gulf emirate
33. Small, cute-style
35. Make corrections
39. "It's _ __ from God!"
40. French article
41. South American animal
42. Excavated again
43. Plymouth _ _ _ (Vintage car)
44. Pointer Sisters member
45. Scintilla
47. Whole
49. Weep
50. Persuade with pressure
53. _ _ _ Park (Pittsburgh Pirates ballpark)
54. Manipulates
55. Gospel singer Mr. Crouch
56. More peculiar
58. Old show on MuchMusic, "Pepsi __ __" (More at #10-Down!)
60. Toward the stern
64. Victor Hugo play, __ Blas
65. 'Tooth'-meaning prefix
66. Princess Beatrice's mum
67. Prince Valiant's son
68. "So long!": 2 wds.
69. Gateway

DOWN
1. "Oh, yeah..." in e-mail
2. British singer Rita
3. 'Vigor' suffix
4. "Survivor" team
5. Fine-tune
6. Song by Canadian troubadour Raffi: 2 wds.
7. Patsy Cline's "_ __ to Pieces"
8. Basic educ.
9. Renter
10. Music genre for #58-Across: 2 wds.
11. Literature leaf
12. Canadian DJ/producer Mr. Morrison
13. Common mailing requests
19. Camping stove company
21. Path [abbr.]
23. Tree variety
24. Entertain
25. Like the Stephen King dog Cujo
29. Players mark them when letter/number combos are called: 2 wds.
30. Fort __ National Historic Site of Canada, in BC
32. "__, the Wrath of God" (1972) directed by Werner Herzog
34. Chg. card percentage
36. Sagas
37. Gunpowder component
38. Horse-hauled carts
46. Small chuckle
48. TV type
50. Director Frank
51. "__ __ Merry Way" (1948)
52. "A Girl Like You" by __ Collins
53. Sulky
54. Country star Keith
57. Slacken
59. Counter's beginning...
61. Pottery/paintings
62. Distant
63. Your, biblically

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
What would you do if you knew that success was guaranteed? So why are you not doing it? The Sun in your sign makes all things possible.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Either you will set your sights too high or set them too low over the next 24 hours. You're in one of your "take it to the limit" moods!

Gemini May 22 - June 21
You usually get what you want in the long-term — your powers of persuasion are legendary — and you will find it easier than ever to get what you want today. You'll be amazed what others agree to.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You are negotiating from a position of strength, so don't let anyone offer you less than you are worth. That applies to the work front, where someone in a position of authority will cheat you if they think they can.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
If you get the urge to try something different over the next 24 hours then by all means follow your instincts. Leo may be a "fixed" sign but in fact you can be quite adventurous.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Tell others exactly what you think today and, if some people don't like it, that's just too bad. Don't be offensive for the sake of it but make sure everyone knows your views.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
The ball is very much in someone else's court at the moment and all you can do is wait. Don't get impatient if they take their time about it because that will encourage them to go even slower.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You will work extremely hard over the next 24 hours – you will get twice as much done as you usually manage. But are you working for yourself or are you working for other people?

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Whatever you start now will bring success in the not too distant future, so make it something you can look back on with pride. It's time to let your creative side come to the fore.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Try not to be too critical of other people today, because however well meaning your comments may be if they're too negative they won't go down well. Loved ones, especially, need your support, so be positive.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You won't find it difficult to get what you want today but don't forget if someone makes you a loan there will come a time when you have to pay it back. Think ahead.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Start something new today, something that will make you popular and make you some serious money. But don't get impatient. This is a long-term project.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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